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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Arafat, al-Asad To Continue Egypt-Sudan Mediation

PM0906154493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Asad and 'Arafat Continue Mediation Efforts"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Libya has decided to temporarily abandon the mediation between Cairo and Khartoum due to its preoccupation with the attempts to ease the severity of the political tension between it and various Arab capitals as a result of the visit to Jerusalem by a delegation of its citizens.

Political sources in Cairo said that Libya has entrusted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with completing his reconciliation efforts between the Egyptian and Sudanese capitals in order to at least to reach the possibility of mending the rift between them. At the same time, there are indications in political circles about the possibility of Syria's resuming mediation endeavors between the two countries within the framework of the Arab aim of bringing an end to this crisis, which is worsening by the day, especially after Khartoum prevented Egyptians working in Sudan from entering the country on the pretext that they are a danger to Sudanese security.

The sources did not indicate when Syria will begin these efforts, although they expect them to begin within days.

The sources pointed out that a preliminary meeting was held to that end in Amman between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—on the sidelines of the cordon states' meetings—to discuss recent developments in the Egyptian-Sudanese crisis in preparation for Syria's resumption of its political endeavors between the two countries.

The sources added that it is not ruled out that al-Shar' could soon begin a shuttle tour between Cairo and Khartoum, carrying messages from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to both countries.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed sources that Sudan has decided to postpone the Khartoum authorities' seizure of the Egyptian Nasir Club in al-Qasr Street in the center of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

This temporary postponement came in the framework of the Arab endeavors made recently, which urged the regime to refrain from any new step likely to appear to Egypt as an act of provocation at this stage. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Delegates to Peace Talks Depart for Washington

JN0906161793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Several members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations left Amman for Washington today. They will meet with U.S. State Department officials to discuss issues related to the peace negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track prior to the forthcoming round of peace talks on 15 June.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said that the delegation will discuss with U.S. officials a mechanism for U.S. intervention in the negotiations, so that the negotiations will be continuous and effective. The two sides will also discuss the issue of a full and neutral partner role for the U.S.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency before her departure, 'Ashrawi added: We urge the United States not to violate the negotiations' terms of reference, to oblige Israel to abide by these terms, and not to take positions in Israel's favor. She pointed out that the Palestinian side had submitted a detailed letter to the U.S. side dealing with the official and declared U.S. policy in general, based on official U.S. statements and documents submitted to the Palestinian side on the peace negotiations, in addition to the terms of reference based on documents, guarantees, and meetings held between the two sides, which were the wide framework of the peace moves.

'Ashrawi on Peace Talks, U.S. Role, Israel

NC1006110593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 15

[Report by Muhammad Yusuf al-Wahidi from Gaza]

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has described the ninth round of peace talks as the most difficult. During this round, she said, the substance and essence of the peace process was discussed, and the U.S. and Israeli commitments were put to the test. She added that in particular, Israel's measures in the occupied territories, the foremost of which is using "the people" as hostages and to blackmail others for political gain, were discussed.

Dr. 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, told ROSE AL-YUSUF that the Palestinian negotiator primarily sought to nullify Israel's authority so steps can be taken to confront human rights violations. These include closing off certain areas, isolating Jerusalem, and demolishing homes. The steps aim at releasing the detainees and stopping the use of live ammunition and at the same time preventing Israel from using human rights as a card in the negotiations. They also aim at making Israel adhere to the peace

process' terms of reference—land for peace—which means proceeding with serious and substantive negotiations.

Commenting on the U.S. role in the peace process, she said it has two aspects: the essence of the process and a mechanism for implementation. But this is the question: Is the United States an impartial or biased partner, and is there a continuous mechanism to offset the inequitable situation? She said it is evident from the ninth round that the United States is biased in Israel's favor. This is not surprising, because the United States is "historically" biased toward Israel, she said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi objected to [Palestinian delegation head] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's stand on suspending the negotiations. She said he is "wrong," because any Palestinian holding an official position should not announce his personal view. This is because it could be interpreted as an official position. She noted that [Palestine National Council Speaker] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has not submitted his resignation in protest over these statements, or any resignation for that matter. He simply asked his deputy, Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib, to assume his duties until the Palestine National Council convenes. This is because he intends to submit his resignation to the council in view of his ill health. This, she said, does not remove the fact that he is displeased with Israel's intransigence, the United States' lack of impartiality, and some other internal differences.

The Palestinian delegation's official spokeswoman denied reports that President Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to the Israeli prime minister through the Austrian foreign minister. She also denied that the Palestinian leadership has agreed that a solution should begin with the Gaza Strip. She noted that 'Arafat's position is not outside the context of his dealing with the land as an integral unit not subject to division, which is the basis of the Palestinian stand.

She said: Should Israel wish to withdraw from Gaza or elsewhere, we will not ask it to stay. The PLO is willing to take care of Gaza. What we reject, however, is what is dubbed the transitional or self-rule period in Gaza, because this means partitioning the solution and partitioning the land.

Comments on Delegation's Position

JN0906123593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jun 93 p 27

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Americans have not yet replied to questions put to them by the Palestinians.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y shortly after her arrival in Amman from occupied Palestine yesterday, 'Ashrawi said: "We have not yet received definite answers," adding "There is no need to rush, the questions are not a quiz to be answered by yes and no. It needs a prolonged political discussion connected with the U.S. policy on the terms of reference and with an evaluation of the negotiation process and the U.S. role especially concerning substance and the mechanism of intervention as a full partner."

'Ashrawi said: "The basic question is no longer to go or not to go. The basic question is: Is there an intention to effect a genuine settlement, an Israeli commitment to and abidance by the process? What is the Palestinian and Arab strategy and the extent of the U.S. honesty and neutrality?"

'Ashrawi called for continuing the Palestinian intifadah and said: "The intifadah is the Palestinian people's will, their response to occupation. People under occupation cannot be without a will or an intifadah." She asserted: "U.S. and Arab pressures are being used against the Palestinian side to push them toward the negotiating table." However, she said that "these pressures are not the only decisive factor in the Palestinians decisionmaking. The Palestinian cause is above all other pressures. It is a sacred cause, a national cause for the future that defines the fate of the entire region."

She said: "We have principles from which we will never budge. We joined the peace process on the basis of certain assurances and principles. These are the land-for-peace principle, ending the occupation, linking the transitional phase with the final phase without infringement on Palestinian rights in the final phase. There is also the issue of a genuine transfer of power, meaning that there will be full authority on the geographic area of the occupied Palestinian territory, considering it as a unit. There is also the question of holding free, democratic elections under UN supervision and finally, the establishment of a Palestinian state, which is inevitable."

She said: "I am against revealing all the cards and negotiating through public statements. There are obstacles and delays but there is some progress. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we fail." She added: "I believe that it is too early for evaluations, reactions, impressions. This takes place from within in an accurate, political form. We should not judge each round as a single unit. The road has a background in history going back to Madrid and even before Madrid. The peace process is long and arduous and requires firmness to remain steadfast and continue the confrontation."

She said: "I am against speaking in general terms and saying that the ninth round was a failure or a success. Some issues have become clear, like the U.S. methods of work and certain Israeli stands. We discovered that there is a basic malfunction on which we should concentrate and which we must deal with."

Answering a question, 'Ashrawi said: "The Palestinian delegation has no new plan for the 10th round. Our plans remain the same with all of its main features and

principles. It is the one which we adopted on the first day of the negotiations and will continue to be the same. These are strategic things."

'Ashrawi added: "However, I must affirm that our position on the Palestinian track is difficult and complicated and that the Israeli position can be described as intransigent. It appears that the Palestinian side's responsibility is to create a change in this Israeli position. Indeed, we have been trying in each round to create a change in the Israeli position." She added: "Thanks to our perseverance during the process, we made the Israeli side committed to the terms of reference. They approved them and presented plans within their framework."

'Ashrawi said: "We have come to see very clearly the features of the pro-Israel U.S. attitude. We are not so naive as to say that the Americans are neutral and that they have decided overnight that the Palestinian and Arab cause is just and must be backed."

Negotiator: No Justification for Attending 10th Round

TA0906135693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[By Hilmi al-Asmar]

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Chief Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has said that "so far the Palestinian side has found nothing yet to justify going to the 10th round of Arab-Israel talks" expected to be held on 15 June. He added: "The continuation of the dialogue with the U.S. side stresses the importance that the Americans should adopt an unbiased stance and affirm the terms of reference of peace, Resolution 242."

In a statement to QUDS PRESS in Amman, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi denied having any reservations about the statement issued by the cordon states foreign ministers in Amman at a late hour on the evening of 6 June, and said: "I had no reservations, especially since the statement did not adopt any decision regarding participation in the 10th round. It opened the way for further contacts and appraisal of the situation." Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized: "I did not object to the statement. In fact, we are still assessing the situation. Perhaps, further dialogue will be held with the U.S. side to determine if there is any justification for our going to the 10th round."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian side "continues to adhere to the national principles on which we are insisting." He added: "We are passing through a difficult stage and are still assessing the situation from all aspects. We want the Palestinian people to be assured that we are keen about all the national principles."

Regarding the issue of Gaza First, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who looked very tired and exhausted, said: "We reject this issue. We are not negotiating over Gaza but about all the Palestinian territories." He emphasized that the official Palestinian position does not deal with the issue of Gaza First. Furthermore, there is nothing official in this issue. It is all empty talk. In principle, we are negotiating about all the territories.

Leadership Supports Continuation of Peace Process

JN0906182993 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jun 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Palestinian leadership under PLO head Yasir 'Arafat at the conclusion of its meetings in Amman on 8 June]

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has concluded its meetings in Amman under brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. It has endorsed the working paper that the Palestinian delegation was entrusted to discuss with the U.S. Administration. The Palestinian leadership also [words indistinct] with interest the outcome of the meetings held by the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the negotiations. It looks forward to the results of the current Arab efforts designed to provide an atmosphere that will make the peace process successful and remove the obstacles placed by the Israeli Government, particularly the measures to isolate Jerusalem, the continued iron-fist policy, and the continued human rights violations. The Palestinian leadership also looks forward to the fulfillment of the U.S. Administration's promises.

The Palestinian leadership stresses its concern for the continuation of the peace process and for the achievement of progress on all its tracks, based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions. Moreover, the Palestinian leadership decided to make the necessary arrangements to hold a comprehensive national dialogue within the PLO's framework.

With regard to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Palestinian leadership discussed [passage indistinct] the Palestinian leadership made several arrangements [words indistinct] the Palestinian leadership greets our people's heroic steadfastness in Jerusalem and in all occupied territories. It pledges to our people that it will proceed toward freedom and independence. Revolution until victory.

Deportee Spokesman al-Rantisi Criticizes 'Arafat

JN0906190393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the struggler deportees, has criticized 'Arafat and al-Husayni for their stand on the 10th round of the negotiations. The so-called Palestinian delegation, al-Rantisi said, will stay with the negotiations until it eventually signs all the dictates of the usurper Jewish side. Dr. al-Rantisi told a news conference yesterday that such a stand did not surprise him. He found it strange, however, that the so-called Palestinian delegation keeps spurning and acting contrary to the will of its people.

Commenting on Faysal al-Husayni's demand for written guarantees from the U.S. State Department, al-Rantisi noted that, before Madrid, the United States had more than once made promises that it never kept. The United States has time and again shown itself to be totally biased toward the alien Zionist entity—a fact acknowledged by members of the so-called Palestinian delegation themselves. What, then, do they hope to gain from the negotiations, al-Rantisi asked.

He indicated that the deportees have been totally ignored. He said he thought their cause would not be addressed at the negotiating table or at any other forum. Al-Rantisi declared that their cause will, however, continue to overshadow all developments. He said that the Zionist intentions feared by al-Husayni are not lost on the deportees. We said from day one of our expulsion that the prime objective of our deportation was to expel the Palestinian people from their homeland and put the transfer plan in place, al-Rantisi added.

*Commentary Criticizes Indyk Report

93P502104 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 17

[Commentary by 'Abdallah al-Dardari]

[Text] Damascus—Was it by accident that the report by Martin Indyk, the U.S. President's adviser, that said that the peace settlement in the Middle East should be concluded on the principle of "the return of land (and not the land) in exchange for complete normalization" coincided with the announcement of the U.S.-Russian-European plan on Bosnia, which decided on a guarantee for the Serbs to occupy the greater part of this republic?

The common denominator between the main lines of the peace settlement that Indyk announced and the international settlement for Bosnia is the great powers' consent to the principle of the permissibility of acquiring land by force, which contradicts the UN Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council. Even when we look at the details of the Bosnia plan, we see the outline of the future—which is delineated by "complete cooperation with Israel," according to Indyk—for the occupied Arab territories. The security areas for the Bosnians equate to the Palestinian autonomous regions that Yitzhaq Rabin wants—self-administered "islands," confined between the Green Line and the Jordan River, some of them separated by a network of Israeli settlements and roads, and excluding "greater Jerusalem," which has come to form a third of the land of the West Bank.

However, the most dangerous thing in the thinking which prevails on the matter of Bosnia being mirrored in the Middle East peace process is consent to the fait accompli and to the results which are enforced by the balance of power on the ground. International law and the principle of right and justice, which are the strongest card in the Arab position in these negotiations, have deteriorated. The West has abandoned the principle of the inadmissibility of acquiring land by force, meaning that it is not greatly concerned with the legal interventions of the Arab negotiator, who uses this principle put forward by UN Resolution 242 to affirm that the resolution speaks of withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories—and not from "lands occupied in the last conflict," according to the English text of the well-known resolution.

Because the indirect evidence which the Bosnia plan shows is insufficient to convince the Arab negotiator about the basic elements of the U.S. position, Martin Indyk's talk about withdrawing from "lands" clearly tended to put U.S. weight behind the Israeli interpretation of the resolution, upon which the peace process is based as a whole. Indeed the most dangerous thing is that Indyk's statement is an interpretation of the U.S. documents of reassurance directed toward the Arab parties before the beginning of the peace process. They are the documents that stipulated that the initiative is based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of the land for peace (the English text in these documents speaks of land for peace and not the land for peace, i.e., the formulation of the English version of Resolution 242) and refuses to acknowledge the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan.

Perhaps the main principle that students of international relations are taught is that international law is a reflection of the prevailing balance of power in a given historical period, and in the current situation the United States controls the balance. When the sole superpower puts its weight behind a certain interpretation of international law, this means that it wants to impose it as law on the weaker parties. However, such a position brings to mind the melancholy George Orwell story "Animal Farm," when the slogan is changed from "all animals are equal" to "all animals are equal, but some of them are more equal than others." This story serves the interests of the stronger parties in the world.

The Arabs entered into the peace process on the basis of clearly defined U.S. commitments and not on the basis of hope for a change in the Israeli position. When the picture cleared with respect to the true U.S. bias, the process lost one of its most important bases. There is no doubt that the Arab negotiator will study the Western plan on Bosnia and will decide to examine carefully Martin Indyk's statements and the West's silence about Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Jerusalem is not open to negotioation. It will not be difficult for the Arab negotiator to find the common denominators between the two policies. It is necessary to repeat the call to the Arab negotiators to study how the United States treats the other regional crises—from Cambodia to Angola, by way of Afghanistan and Bosnia—to ascertain U.S. strategy and tactics concerning the peace process. So far, the indications are that the American raises the slogan "long live the fait accompli" everywhere in the world, and confirms on the ground and in its agreements the balance of force in regional conflicts. The American—in both the private and public arena—listens well to the argument based on justice and may agree with it, but concludes the

discussion saying, "All this is well and good, but it is no longer the case. How do we satisfy everyone?"

We may look at Eritrea, which celebrated its independence on the second anniversary of the revolutionary forces' liberation of the world order, in which force is the deciding factor, or is this an indication that getting close to Israel is a method for achieving one's rights? Where does all this leave our new conviction that the political method and negotiation is the only method to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and recover usurped rights?

The picture will clear during further negotiations. It is necessary for the Arab negotiator to study from now on how to deal with a new world order which raises the slogan of "long live the fait accompli" instead of the slogan of international law.

King Husayn Rejects Appeal for Early Confederation

TA1006080793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Betzal'el 'Amiqam]

[Excerpt] Jordan's King Husayn has rejected PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's appeal to set an earlier date for the establishment of a confederation between the territories and Jordan, advising him that Jordan will make its decision only after it evaluates the interim period in the territories. Western diplomatic sources in Israel have told 'AL HAMISHMAR that Husayn informed 'Arafat that first "the territories must regain stability, normalization, and a state of nonviolence, and only then will the confederation issue be examined."

Husayn also rejected 'Arafat's request to convene the next session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Amman. According to the sources, the king explained that Jordan will be preoccupied with its own election campaign, which is a complex and sensitive issue, in the near future and cannot host the PNC convention at the same time.

The sources believe that 'Arafat will attempt to convince President al-Asad to host the PNC session in Damascus and that this is the real reason for his upcoming visit to Syria.

Concerning the agenda [preceding word in English] achieved by Israel and Jordan, the sources reported that Jordan had approached Israel with requests for several changes in the draft agreed on in October. Israel consented to discuss several of the changes but rejected others categorically. For instance, the Jordanians sought to change Clause 5 dealing with future borders, adding the term "occupied territories" to the draft. The Jordanians also wanted to delete the last clause, which speaks of a peace accord. Israel rejected this request at once. In addition, the Jordanians sought to introduce several changes, defined as "semantic," into clauses dealing with the Palestinian angle of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

PLO Withholds Salaries, Services in Austerity Drive

PM0906121593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 3

[Salah Hazin report: "PLO Closes Its Clinics, Freezes Salaries of Its Employees in Jordan"]

[Excerpts] Amman—The PLO's financial crisis has blown away the health care privileges that were enjoyed by PLO cadres, most of whom belong to Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian faction, and PLO staff in Jordan.

Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that the PLO has decided to close down the clinics where its employees and cadres received treatment in Amman, Irbid, and al-Zarqa' because of the PLO's suffocating financial crisis. They said the decision only applied to Jordan because "every area has its own special circumstances."

According to the same sources, some 20,000 people who had benefited from these facilities in Jordan will be affected by the decision. That is in addition to those wounded in the intifadah who used to go to these clinics for treatment. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has also learned that, because of the PLO's financial difficulties, the payment of the monthly salaries of the PLO ranks and employees has been delayed for the third consecutive month. The Palestinian sources also told AL-HAYAH that military personnel living in Jordan have also been affected and that only the employees of the Palestinian National Fund have received their salaries for the past three months. [passage omitted]

The sources said that the austerity measures have reached the red lines, meaning the monthly aid provided by the PLO for the people of the occupied Palestinian territory. That aid has dropped from 8 million dinars monthly before the Gulf crisis to 700,000 dinars monthly. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Abbas Rejects Reports of Relocation From Tunis

JN0906153893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Doha, 9 Jun (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas has dismissed speculation that the PLO may relocate its headquarters and offices from Tunis to another Arab capital.

In statements published by the Qatari newspapers AL-'ARAB and AL-SHARQ in Doha today, the Palestinian

official said reports that surface every now and then about PLO offices being moved from Tunis are absolutely groundless.

He charged that Israel is placing obstacles before the Middle East peace process and held the United States responsible for the failure of the peace talks to make any meaningful progress. He cited the U.S. failure to pressure the Israelis to comply with UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, in similar statements, Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said the Palestinian side is interested in completing a joint declaration of principles setting out guidelines for the next stage. He called for expanded intra-Arab coordination on the Middle East peace talks and said he wished that the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union would join coordination talks with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Egypt.

OPEC Affairs

Gabonese Minister Elected New OPEC President

LD0806170293 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Gabonese Energy Minister Jean Ping was elected president of OPEC today.

Oil Ministers Begin Closed Session in Geneva

LD0906125793 Vienna OPECNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Jun 93

[By Jerry Haylins]

[Text] Geneva, 9 June 93 (OPECNA)—OPEC's oil and energy ministers began meeting in closed session here this morning in pursuit of a production agreement for the third quarter of the year. The 93rd meeting of the OPEC conference began here Tuesday [8 June] with two sessions. The ministers worked their way through a 17 point agenda that dealt largely with administrative and secretariat matters.

They also received reports giving supply and demand predictions for the third quarter and member country wellhead production and supply data for the last few months.

Sources close to the talks said the ministers began some informal bilateral and multilateral discussions on Tuesday evening in their bid to reach a common stand on what action should be taken in the third quarter when oil stocks are customarily expanded. They noted that newly elected conference President Jean Ping, who is Gabon's minister of mines, energy and hydraulic resources, was active in the discussions.

The sources said that the ministers would be hopeful of setting a ceiling that could take oil prices, currently hovering around 18 dollars a barrel, nearer to the organizations' minimum reference price of 21 dollars a barrel.

Outgoing OPEC conference president Dr. Alirio A. Parra, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, stressed in his opening speech to the meeting Tuesday that the 21 dollar price had been reached only on one occasion—in 1990 and only briefly.

The sources pointed out that arriving at the right equation would need some serious discussion, taking into account the individual interests of each member country.

Several member states have already voiced their desire for a roll-over of the present ceiling, which, they say, will help take excess oil off the market and boost prices.

OPEC's current production ceiling, set for the second quarter, stands at 23.58 million b/d [barrels per day], although actual output is running at around 200,000 b/d in excess of this amount.

The organization's secretary general, Dr. Subroto, told reporters after the second session of the conference Tuesday that OPEC supply to the market stood at 23.80 million b/d last month, down slightly from 23.87 million b/d in April.

Wellhead production in the 12 member countries was reported to the organization's three-man compliance committee as standing at 23.64 million b/d in May, 151,000 b/d higher than the previous month. The team, comprising Subroto and the oil and energy ministers of Libya and Qatar, met twice ahead of the conference to compare figures sent to the secretariat from member countries with secondary sources.

The sub-committee has been set up by the organization expressly to monitor monthly wellhead production and supply figures and to ensure quotas are being adhered to. Although it also keeps track of wellhead output, it is mainly concerned with the supply of OPEC oil to the market.

Subroto Tuesday also reaffirmed figures supplied by the OPEC Economic Commission Board (ECB), which meets ahead of every conference, saying that the call on the organization's oil and stocks in the third quarter

would be 24.2 million b/d. He noted that a stock-build of between 400,000 b/d and 600,000 b/d could be expected in the period.

The sources said that this demand figure offered leeway for some increase in the ceiling without putting too much pressure on the market, but the level of stocks, already high for the time of year, could be a deciding factor.

Kuwaiti Minister on Production Increase

LD0906221693 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Oil Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli said all OPEC ministers have acknowledged a promise made by the organization last February to give Kuwait the right to increase its oil production as of next month. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Abducted Official Found Dead; Suspects Named

LD1006105393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] El Maala Secretary General Khiat Messaoud was found dead this morning in Oued Yester, Lakhdaria district of Bouira Governorate. Mr. Messaoud was abducted yesterday by two men.

National Gendarmerie sources, which announced the news, explained that eyewitnesses identified the two men as Chibane Ammar and Guettaf Ali who were under investigation.

Three Sentenced to Death for 'Acts of Terrorism'

LD0906154293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The Algiers special judicial council that held its session in Bouira on 6, 7, and 8 June handed down three death sentences, a life sentence, a two-year jail term, and an acquittal in the trial of six persons accused of committing acts of terrorism in Lakhdaria, including Messaoudi Mabrouk, who last May assassinated Bouchaair Lahcene, a chief warrant officer in the national gendarmerie.

Also in Bouira Province, at 1800 yesterday three armed individuals kidnapped the acting secretary general of Amaala municipality in Lakhdaria District. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa on Future of Regional Peace, World Order

NC0906211093 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jun 93 pp 8-12

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by ROSE AL-YUSUF correspondent 'Adil Hammudah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hammudah] Speaking frankly, do you accept the "term" new world order?

[Musa] It is a common description. Its use is widespread. But it is more accurate to say new world "situation," not new world "order." The situation will eventually lead to an order, but we are not there yet; we are in a transitional period that will last throughout the 1990's. We will not see the new world order until the current fluidity passes.

[Hammudah] Apparently, the 20th century will end with a fluid situation. Then we will enter the new century with a new order.

[Musa] This is important. At the beginning of the next century, things will be different. There will be a new type of crisis connected with the exponential advance in genetic engineering and computer and space sciences. By the end of the 20th century, we will have left our current regional problems behind us and will enter a new era with different problems.

[Hammudah] The next century is not far off.

[Musa] It's less than seven years away.

[Hammudah] Is this long enough to solve the current explosive conflicts?

[Musa] Probably, yes.

[Hammudah] Do you mean we will enter the next century without a Middle East crisis?

[Musa] This issue will be settled in the next five years at most.

[Hammudah] How?

[Musa] Israel will withdraw to the international borders with Syria and Lebanon in return for peace. The Palestinians will get the right to self-determination in return for assurances about Israeli security.

[Hammudah] What about Jerusalem?

[Musa] That problem needs a creative solution—politically and legally—that does not accept the existing conditions. It must be an imaginative solution. When we find it, we will close the file on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Relations will be different from what they are now.

[Hammudah] I fear future coexistence between the Arabs and Israel will be like the story of the wolf and the sheep. I will not say which is which.

[Musa] I disagree with those who say we are the weak party and that they will swallow us up or that our culture is in danger of being penetrated. We live in an age of data, the satellite era. Even if problems are not solved, the various parts of the world will penetrate each other. Israeli television now enters our homes. It is no longer hard to hide the sources of trade and so on. If we do not go on the offensive in this cultural invasion, we will be like someone who merely screams as he drowns.

We will be swallowed up. There is no doubt about this, not only where the Arabs are concerned. It will have ramifications for everyone in the North and the South, because the world is intermingling. This is why we must be ready for the counter campaign. We have much that we can use defensively and offensively.

[Hammudah] How can this happen in a world controlled solely by a single power, the United States?

[Musa] Yes, the United States has become the sole power. This is a fact. Still, is it really running the entire world? I say: No. The proof is that it could not intervene in Bosnia-Herzegovina in defiance of the European stance. It has the longest reach, that's true, but it is not alone. The other powers have a role. Here in Egypt we

are considered a major regional power. Our views are different from U.S. views on numerous issues, but this does not mean we want to challenge anyone. On the contrary; our friendship with the United States must continue. What concerns me is maintaining the independence of the homeland and our decisionmaking process. We have definite positions on issues of Egyptian national security. We adopted them independently of the others. For example, we refused to sign the chemical weapons agreement. Some heads of state contacted President Mubarak about this issue, but he said: I am sorry, it is a matter of national security.

The United States is running much of the world's programs and problems, but other powers are playing roles in some regions. Europe is doing do in connection with the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue and we are doing so over the peace issue and our national security.

[Hammudah] We feel the pressure of interference in internal affairs—albeit without the use of armies and direct pressure—through organizations such as the IMF. Don't you agree with me that the concept of national sovereignty has changed and is not what it used to be?

[Musa] Many concepts will change. The world is now talking about human rights and follows up this issue inside the countries. In one important respect this is regarded as interference in internal affairs, but in another respect they say we want another world where an end is put to certain actions. All this means that changes will take place in the concept of sovereignty. Sovereignty in its legal sense, which is used by the border guard, will not change, but sovereignty in its conceptual and psychological sense will change, and in light of the revolution in communications, this change will be concrete.

[Hammudah] This means that the countries that possess more influence will have more sovereignty?

[Musa] Yes. This demands that we embark on scientific, cultural, and economic development. We understand that. What is happening in Egypt now is something positive, in my opinion, because we are reforming our economy, reviewing education, and developing the industry by allowing the private sector to have a share in it. It is enough to note that 25 percent of our exports come from Madinat al-'Ashir min Ramadan. We are changing Egypt by moving in doses from a closed economy to an open economy. This kind of shift is less dangerous than the sudden shift that took place in the Soviet Union, which led to its collapse. Therefore, irrespective of the criticism of the slow pace at which this is being done, it is better than collapse.

[Hammudah] This means that the burden of promoting exports and opening new markets has been added to the political burdens of Egyptian diplomacy.

[Musa] When I was in Eritrea, I talked to its president about two things: The Horn of Africa and the release of the Egyptian fishermen. The first issue is political and the second is commercial. This means that diplomacy works for Egyptian interests. I would like to say on this occasion that the Horn of Africa is part of the Middle East in its wider proportion. It is part of us; they understand this and history confirms it. This is of great interest to me.

[Hammudah] With this understanding of the work of Egyptian diplomacy, what is its role regarding the most important domestic issue—terrorism—especially since many of its leads extend beyond our borders?

[Musa] Before being a diplomat or a foreign minister I am an Egyptian, an Arab, and a Muslim. Regarding certain fundamentalist interpretations, my opinion is that every individual has the right to have an opinion, provided his opinion does not cross the line dividing ideology and terrorism. The state must intervene forcefully if this line is overstepped. Dialogue cannot take place with people who open fire on others.

As a citizen, I do not approve of anyone terrorizing society. I do not think that it is in the interests of any Egyptian to terrorize society, destroy houses, or indiscriminately kill innocent people on the street. Everyone must stand against such things.

As a diplomat, I represent the state. Some individuals or groups are trying to terrorize society in this state. Therefore, I must do everything to save this society and reinforce its resistance against outlaws.

Egyptian diplomacy, therefore, has a duty to put things in their true perspective, reassuring foreigners, and explaining the difference between ideology and terrorism to those who are interested in the matter abroad. I went to Pakistan for the Islamic conference and I spoke to officials there. They were extremely distressed at what is happening.

[Hammudah] The security teams that met with the Pakistanis did not succeed. To put it bluntly, they failed.

[Musa] The contacts did not fail. These things need time; they also require understandings with others because terrorism is a regional as well as worldwide phenomenon; it is not a national phenomenon.

[Hammudah] It is no longer a secret that the United States played a role in supporting and training terrorists; it used them in Afghanistan. Has it realized the danger of playing with fire or is it still playing the game?

[Musa] Countries differed in their assessment of terrorism. It has now become clear that terrorism is a worldwide phenomenon that should be stopped by universal efforts. It is not a question of America or others, because terrorism involves all societies. I believe that all governments and people are now aware of this. This is a positive point.

[Hammudah] Has the United States realized the danger of terrorism since it was burned by the fire when the World Trade Center in New York was blown up?

[Musa] This is natural; it is the biggest building in New York.

[Hammudah] How many states foster terrorism?

[Musa] I do not like to talk about such figures. Some hands are certainly involved; they may not get involved directly, but they pay. This will soon stop. I believe that this trend cannot continue in Egypt; it tried before but it failed. It will not succeed today or in the future. Our intellectual and psychological structure in Egypt is different. It may sway to the right or left for a while, but it soon comes back to its nature and restores its undefeatable essence. It is a historic, social, cultural, and psychological structure that is affected by economic aspects. The long-term cure lies in reforming education and the economic conditions. The short-term cure is that involving security.

[Hammudah] Is Egypt still the major regional power?

[Musa] This situation has not changed; it did not wear out, contrary to what some people say. The change involved the Egyptian approach; we do not use an aggressive approach, ask for the impossible, or incite the masses. Time has changed.

The regional masses know that Egyptian production has increased, educational institutions have risen to higher standards, and tourist attractions are ready. These are the things that justify Egypt's political and economic power.

It was Egypt that changed the situation in the Middle East through negotiations. It restored Sinai completely. Syria and Lebanon will restore their lands fully within the same framework. All this shows the effect Egypt can have. However, Egypt's regional power does not preclude any other power. The greater the powers the stronger the interaction will be in the Arab world.

[Hammudah] The problem is that other regional powers have used money and the media to make Egyptian power decline so that they can replace it.

[Musa] Egyptian power has its historic, geographic, human, cultural, and political foundations. Egypt also has the initiative. Competition with other powers is good; it adds to Egypt rather than weakens it.

[Hammudah] But there is an evil competition that starts with interference in internal affairs.

[Musa] This is absolutely unacceptable, not only in Egypt but in all other Arab states in the Gulf or elsewhere. If certain elements try to cause instability, the issue concerns Egypt because pan-Arab security is Egypt's national security and vice versa.

[Hammudah] What is your comment on the remark that "the Damascus Declaration is still staggering?"

[Musa] I believe it is still staggering, but it has not fallen. It has been staggering for a long time. I will be able to answer your question more precisely after the 12 June meeting in Abu Dhabi.

[Hammudah] That is five days from now.

[Musa] Yes.

[Hammudah] Is it possible that with the advent of the next century the term "Middle East," which includes Turkey, Iran, and Israel could become stronger than the term "Arab World"?

[Musa] Yes, this is possible. We must be prepared for that by preserving the Arab identity and Arab interests.

[Hammudah] When do you think we will feel the threat of the so- called Middle East [common] market currently being presented for debate?

[Musa] There will be no development in this subject unless something positive occurs in the issue of withdrawal. There is a lot of talk about economic cooperation, water, refugees, and disarmament. But all this is contingent upon Israel's withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of peace. Therefore, the cooperation will not be imposed and we will not be afraid of it. A normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel took place 15 years ago, and Egypt is now better off for it and has not been negatively affected.

[Hammudah] Russia is supposed to have its role in the peace negotiations. But this role is absent in view of its domestic problems. Does this not affect the guarantees of peace and the talks' results?

[Musa] It would be much better if Russia had a role. But if it cannot play a role, then Europe should play a role due to its interests and interactions with the various states in the region. Europe's role should be constructive, not like its role in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

[Hammudah] Why were the negotiations suddenly revived after stagnating for a long time?

[Musa] The stagnation took place during the U.S. elections. The negotiations were revived once it became clear that the new U.S. Administration was pursuing the previous line and that it would play an important role as happened in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Also, the negotiating teams talked a lot about the procedures and not about the basic details.

[Hammudah] Have they now started to talk about the important details?

[Musa] During the third round progress was made on the Syrian-Israeli track. But progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track occurred only during the ninth round. Also, the Americans have started presenting specific papers for negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] I should have started the interview with this question. Is Sudan a thorn in our side?

[Musa] Absolutely not.

[Hammudah] What exactly is going on?

[Musa] There is tension between us as a result of a divergence in views. They are to be blamed for many measures. But this will pass and the Egyptian-Sudanese interaction will continue.

[Hammudah] Perhaps if the Sudanese leader attends the African summit in Cairo this will contribute toward ending the crisis because we share a lot of feelings?

[Musa] The Sudanese leader has been invited to the African summit. But we have no idea whether or not he will attend.

[Hammudah] Perhaps we will know tomorrow.

[Musa] Certainly.

Comments on Relations With Sudan

PM0906151493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 93 p 6

[Report on interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa expects progress to be made in the future at the level of the present peace process sponsored by the United States and Russia, in order to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East region.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Amman on the sidelines of the coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process, the Egyptian foreign minister expressed his hope that tangible progress would be made in the peace process as a whole and on all tracks before the end of the year.

Musa said: The U.S. Administration is making a useful effort in the framework of working to push the peace process forward. The U.S. side has begun in practice to provide practical views and proposals to make the negotiations a success. And what happened in the previous round of negotiations is also happening now. [passage omitted]

Asked about his view of the Israeli position on the peace process, the Egyptian foreign minister said: Without doubt there is a kind of progress and change in the Israeli position. We hope this progress will continue, that is if Israel really want to contribute to establishing a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace that serves all parties in the region, including Israel itself.

Asked whether he was optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the present peace process, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I am optimistic generally. Yes, I am optimistic and I lean toward optimism more than toward pessimism. This is because through sincere efforts by all parties we can attain the peace which we are seeking and which is acceptable to all the parties, establishing the foundations of security and stability in this unsettled region of the world. [passage omitted]

On the dispute between Egypt and Sudan over the Hala'ib area, Amr Musa recalled what Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had stressed in previous statements, namely that the dispute between the two countries will never in any way turn into a military confrontation or clash.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the Hala'ib issue is not the basis of the dispute with Sudan. There are other disputes regarding policies pursued by Sudan which are of no benefit to it or the region. As for the dispute over Hala'ib, Egypt has stressed that it will never be a cause of a confrontation between Egypt and Sudan.

In this context Musa expressed his hope that Sudan would abandon its policies, which he mentioned without going into details. He said: We really want Sudan to be able to abandon these policies, which are of no benefit to anyone.

On Iran's role in the incidents which take place on the Egyptian scene between the Islamic groups and the government security forces, the Egyptian foreign minister said: I am talking here about the terrorist operations carried out against society. Any power which supports it [terrorism], whatever that power is, is committing a vile action by allowing violence to harm society and the innocent.

Musa said: I want to make it clear that I am not accusing anyone here, neither Iran or anyone else. I would like to stress that. Iran is not the object of accusation in this interview. I am talking in general about terrorism aimed against society at large and for no reason. It is not right for this terrorism to find supporters who support it with conviction and understanding.

Asked whether there are any contacts in this connection between Egypt and Iran, the Egyptian foreign minister said that contacts with Iran are not prohibited. What is important here is for us to move forward toward noninterference in this or that state, that is by any state or power in the world against another state or power, in implementation of respect for every state's sovereignty over its territory and within its borders. [passage omitted]

Musa on Contacts With Israel To 'Curb' Security Cordon

NC0906142293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is holding contacts with Israel to curb its security cordon around the occupied territories.

Musa said the contacts are part of the effort to boost the peace process, especially with the 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks due to begin on 15 June.

Editor Questions U.S. Press 'Sensationalism'

NC0806204993 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Press Sensationalism, Fabrication, and Defense of Terrorism's Rights"]

[Text] It seems that some U.S. media organs can only perform their duty in an atmosphere of sensationalism and fabrication. They do not even mind fabricating news reports and stories, and, in a bid to give them credibility and integrity, claim they are citing diplomatic sources.

In one of these groundless lies, THE WASHINGTON POST two days ago published a report allegedly quoting Arab diplomatic sources as saying that during their two meetings in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher handed President Husni Mubarak messages concerning terrorism. The paper claimed that Egypt refused to soften or mitigate its campaigns to curb the armed elements that carried out bombings and attacks against tourists and Egyptian officials. The paper mentioned in this respect the death sentence recently handed down against six of these terrorists by a military court.

The illusions of THE WASHINGTON POST lead one to ask what are behind them, although all signs indicate that they seek to drive a wedge in the cordial and distinguished relations between Egypt and the United States. What is certain is that the paper was not pleased by the positive results gained from President Mubarak's visit to Washington and his successful talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The analysis of the results of the visit was not far from the truth when it referred to the "chemistry" between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton, meaning mutual understanding and harmony, from the first time they met. Because the paper knows more than anyone else that Egypt does not accept interference in its domestic affairs, it seems that by this fabricated story the paper wanted to fish in murky waters, but for whose sake? Nobody knows.

We closely followed up President Mubarak's visit to Washington, but we have not heard directly or indirectly about these messages that the paper claimed the U.S. secretary of state had delivered to President Mubarak. What further confirms this fact is the nature of things in the United States, where there are no secrets when it comes to "news." If what THE WASHINGTON POST reported was true, it would have been difficult to hide it.

To further tarnish Egypt's image, the paper referred to a report by the London-based Amnesty International that spoke of excesses by Egyptian security men against terrorists. Continuing its attempt to drive a wedge, the paper went on to say that this report puts the U.S. Administration, which is linked by strong ties to Egypt, in a tight spot, since it has to keep a balance between safeguarding human rights and its concern over terrorist and fanatical acts backed by Iran.

THE WASHINGTON POST's attitude leads us to say that the human rights committees' reports have become an old and boring gimmick that is being employed for the purpose of pressure and press extortion. Because these reports have deviated from their humanitarian line, some observers now accuse human rights groups of turning into organizations for the defense of the rights of murder and terrorism. It is necessary here to acknowledge, as professional journalists who care for the freedom of the press, that this freedom absolutely does not mean the right to defend the crimes of terrorism, murder, and sabotage. Nor does this freedom give journalists the right to contact murderers and outlaws under the pretext of defending human rights at a time when the innocent victims of terrorism find no one to defend their rights.

It would not be strange to find another newspaper like THE WASHINGTON POST or a similar organization like Amnesty International standing up in defense of the crimes of the Mafia in Italy, murderers of tourists in Florida, or the fanatic maniac Koresh, who was killed in a clash with U.S. security forces. The only result of the failure to observe integrity in press work or in defending human rights is loss of credibility and distortion of many of the noble objectives.

Saudi Arabia Reportedly Involved in Terrorism

NC0906112293 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 10

[Excerpt] Cairo—Egyptian sources have disclosed that Saudi Arabia has played an active role in backing the Islamic groups' activities in Egypt. These sources told AL-SAFIR that the information Egypt recently obtained from certain detained leaders of the Vanguard of the Islamic Conquest [Tala'i' al-Fath al-Islami] organization is sufficient to prove involvement by high level Saudi circles in terrorist activity in Egypt.

These sources told AL-SAFIR that one of the leaders of the Vanguards of the Islamic Conquest who was recently apprehended admitted that the organization received financial and military aid through certain Saudi intelligence men for six months beginning in September 1992. He also disclosed that certain leaders of this organization visited Saudi Arabia more than once at the invitation of Saudi intelligence, and that they held several meetings with the main aides of Prince Turki Bin-Faysal, the director of the Saudi Intelligence Department that supervised the organization, its plans, its choice of leaders, and the financing of its operations. He also said that the vanguards of the Islamic Conquest members received from Saudi intelligence detailed maps of certain areas of Cairo, Alexandria, and Ismailia, along with those of the Upper Egypt governorates. He noted that the latest instructions given to them entailed moving their operations to the Qina Governorate, the most important

governorate of Upper Egypt and the target of the fewest operations by the Islamic groups.

A responsible source in Cairo asserted to AL-SAFIR that these new pieces of evidence, which emphasize Saudi Arabia's involvement in supporting terrorist operations, will be the focus of talks between Cairo and Riyadh in the future. He said that Egypt will seriously look at and follow up on Saudi pledges to stop all forms of "terrorism" disguised as religion. The Egyptian source noted the Egyptian leadership's resentment of this information and that the President's Office ordered a detailed file on this information and evidence, excluding all speculations. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, Syrian Delegations Hold Joint Meetings

Prime Ministers Comment

NC0906205193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has praised the outcome of the meetings of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee. In statements after the committee's meetings this evening, Dr. Sidqi said a positive and constructive spirit prevailed during the talks, which aim to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries in various fields. This, Dr. Sidqi added, confirms the countries' faith in cooperation.

Dr. Sidqi said the two sides are pursuing realistic and calculated steps toward realizing integrated coordination under the guidance of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad.

In his statements, Prime Minister Sidqi affirmed that the Egyptian and Syrian sides yearn to strengthen bilateral cooperation out of their objective beliefs. He added that the bilateral agreements are bound to serve the two peoples' interests. He noted that the historic experiment between the two countries in the 1950's and 1960's had its positive aspects, but was blemished by negative attitudes caused by emotional, aimless steps.

Dr. Sidqi conveyed his personal thanks to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi for his personal efforts to work out solutions to any obstacles that might face the bilateral cooperation process, particularly Egyptian companies operating in Syria or the exchange of commodities between the two countries.

The Syrian prime minister said the committee focused on bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade exchange, economic and technical cooperation, planning, and setting up joint ventures concerning sea and land transport and health. The committee also discussed the means to encourage investors in the two countries to establish joint projects, al-Zu'bi added. The Syrian prime minister said it was agreed to add new items to the list of the bilateral exchange of products.

Al-Zu'bi praised the outcome of the committee's meetings, adding that the two sides' sincere and fraternal spirit helped to consolidate the two countries' efforts on every level and enable the committee to achieve positive results.

Dr. Sidqi's Political Adviser 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'udi said the Higher Committee will hold its sixth session in Damascus in August.

Joint Committee Issues Statement

NC1006091193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2214 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and Syria have emphasized their determination to boost bilateral cooperation and coordinate the activity of their national and productive sectors to serve the two fraternal peoples and promote national development.

The two sides also stressed eagerness to see the public and private sectors playing a growing role in implementing cooperation projects. They noted the need for a clear timetable for executing joint ventures seriously and without delay, which would encourage businessmen to invest in these projects.

This came in the final statement signed by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at the conclusion this evening of the fifth session of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee.

The statement contained the principles that govern various aspects of Egyptian-Syrian cooperation in the next stage. It called for new prospects for cooperation and for entrenching it in the economic and technical establishments.

In the field of foreign policy, the statement urged speed in the signing of the cooperation and coordination framework between the two Foreign Ministries.

The statement expressed satisfaction with the level of coordination and consultations in foreign affairs, be it through direct bilateral relations or through coordination of positions at Arab, regional, and international conferences.

The two sides decided to sign a technical and scientific protocol as a framework for cooperation in all fields. It was actually signed this evening. [passage omitted]

The committee called on the public and private sectors to continue efforts to increase the volume of trade and diversify exchanged commodities within the agreements signed between the two countries. It summoned the joint trade committee to meet in September to revise and expand commodity lists and review the lists appended to the equal-deal agreement so that new commodities can be added. [passage omitted]

The committee called on the concerned authorities to find an appropriate solution to surmount the obstacles to mutual trade, especially concerning Syrian cotton and Egyptian insecticides.

The committee also decided to amend the terms of the documented credit for the building of two Syrian ships at Alexandria Shipyard. The amendment makes the credit equivalent to 75 percent of the total value. Work on the two ships will start 45 days after the amendment date. [passage omitted]

The committee decided to complete the timetable for the electricity grid linking Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey so that it will be implemented on schedule. It also decided to continue coordination to produce electric equipment locally and to produce new and renewable wind and solar energy.

The committee reviewed the outstanding work of the Egyptian exploration company in drilling productive and exploratory oil wells in Syria since 1991 and decided that Egypt should prepare a draft agreement on establishing a joint company to implement oil projects and service oil wells and lay down a draft protocol for technical cooperation in the field of oil training and exchanging expertise to be signed in the next three months.

The committee decided to continue implementing a project to unify specifications and codes concerning construction in general and to follow up on comprehensive architectural planning in light of the Egyptian working paper.

In the field of transport and communications, the committee decided to speed up the feasibility study for a joint shipping company and to work jointly to reopen the sea link between Alexandria and Latakia.

The committee called for steps to establish a joint company for cargo and passenger transport and for the continuation of technical and economic studies for a sea telecommunications cable between Alexandria and Tartus to serve telephone contacts between the two countries and among the Arab countries, the Mediterranean countries, and Western Europe. They decided to invite the countries benefiting from the cable to contribute to its financing.

The committee called for using the Egyptian-German company for the production of telephone equipment to increase the capacity of Syria's central exchanges.

The committee decided to exchange television broadcasts of various political, economic, social, cultural, and sports activities in both countries and to study the possibility of the Egyptian Space Channel reaching Syria. [passage omitted]

Syrian Prime Minister Meets Mubarak

NC1006102093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0904 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Egyptian Ambassador to Syria Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz attended the meeting.

Also attending the meeting on the Syrian side were Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish.

The Syrian prime minister said after the meeting that he was glad to have met with President Mubarak, pointing out that he conveyed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to his excellency and to the noble Egyptian people.

He said various aspects of bilateral relations and the outcome of the meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee, which ended in Cairo last night, were reviewed during the meeting with the president.

He said President Mubarak appreciated the achievements of the committee and urged promoting Egyptian-Syrian relations in all fields. President Mubarak encouraged us to make further progress in this respect, al-Zu'bi said.

He said President Mubarak reviewed during the meeting all Arab and international developments.

Syrian Delegation Leaves

NC1006090593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning following a four-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. He also chaired his country's delegation to the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee meetings. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Arrives From Amman, Leaves for Tunis

NC0906145793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon following a three-day visit to Jordan.

He was received at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1415 GMT on 9 June adds the following: "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis this afternoon after stopping for an hour at Cairo airport."]

Minister Leaves for Libya With Mubarak Message

NC1006092993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Sidi Barrani, 10 Jun (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif arrived in Sidi Barrani early this morning en route to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

He said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Libyan revolution leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Columnist Criticizes IMF Call for Lower Interest Rate

NC0906105893 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Jun 93 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "A Stable Egyptian Pound Arouses Envy and Jealousy; Can the IMF Be Exonerated From the Suspicion of Prejudice Toward the Dollar?"]

[Excerpts] Economic reforms in Egypt are on the right track, as planned by the government. Two main principles have been taken into consideration:

First, gradual implementation.

Second, the social dimension.

Many of the countries that have implemented economic reform programs either did not pay attention to the above two points or were forced to abandon them against their will.

What is baffling, however, is that the states and organizations that had insisted on the reforms in Egypt are the same ones that now feel envious and jealous of the results!

For example, there are indications that those countries and organizations never wanted the Egyptian pound to stand firm against the dollar, to which they are obviously loyal and which the West and the East see as a symbol of sovereignty, power, and influence.

The stability of the value of the dollar in Egypt was not to the liking of the countries and organizations that had encouraged the economic reform and that were so enthusiastic about it that some of them had threatened to stop loans and ban credits if it was not implemented.

Thus, it becomes clear that any Egyptian success, especially in politics and the economy, always finds people to resist it by all means! [passage omitted]

Egypt was enlightened and knowledgeable when it refused to let the IMF, with its rigid theories that fail to distinguish between the different circumstances of nations, control its economic reform program. We had many tough and decisive confrontations with the IMF. [passage omitted]

We must realize that the IMF's current proposal to reduce the interest rate on deposits in Egyptian pounds would automatically mean an increase in the value of the dollar, if implemented. The IMF, in this case, would be fulfilling what might be a hidden desire by the United States, "the owner of the dollar". This is especially the case if we consider that the IMF and the World Bank are in Washington's orbit, and are always eager to demonstrate their loyalty and obedience to it. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

French Assembly Speaker Meets With Officials

Discusses EC Talks With Karoui

LD0806143693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui discussed the international situation and bilateral relations with Philppe Seguin, speaker of the French National Assembly, at the government palace in Kasba.

Seguin pointed out the need to again discuss the issues of mutual interest. He said that he raised the current negotiations between Tunisia and the EC with Hamed Karoui.

The meeting was also an occasion to discuss the prospects of developing the conditions under which international exchanges take place. Seguin affirmed the success of the Tunisian approach to the joint development.

Confers With Ben Ali on Issues

LD0806190293 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] At Carthage Palace this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Mr Philippe Seguin, speaker of the French National Assembly, in the presence of Mohamed El Jari, minister director of the presidential office.

Following the meeting, Philippe Seguin said that he was honored by today's audience with the president which took place on his first visit to Tunisia. He went on to say that he had received President Ben Ali's opinions on the major topics of the hour, particularly bilateral topics of interest to Tunisia and France, on regional topics, particularly those relating to the Arab Maghreb Union, currently chaired by Tunisia, and on the topics of the Middle East peace process, international trade and development problems.

He said: President Ben Ali showed particular interest in the progress of trade, economic, cultural and political relations between Tunisia and France. I conveyed to him the determination to work in that direction, as stressed by the French premier and the French foreign minister. Seguin said he is returning to Paris with a number of facts and opinions expressed by President Ben Ali which he will convey to his country's government. In conclusion, he pointed out that he had told the president about the determination that he shares with the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to boost bilateral relations.

OAU Secretary General Salim Arrives for Talks

LD0906161593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Salim Ahmed Salim, OAU Secretary General, arrived in Tunis today on a 24-hour working visit. [passage omitted]

In a statement to TAP, Salim Ahmed Salim expressed his pleasure at being able to conduct this visit, saying it will provide him with the opportunity to discuss with Tunisian officials the preparations for the forthcoming African summit, which will convene at the end of June in Cairo, and also to exchange views on the conditions prevailing in some parts of the continent and on the means to stimulate Arab-African cooperation.

Meets With Foreign Minister

LD1006082593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim has been visiting Tunisia since yesterday. Yesterday evening, he reviewed the situation in Africa with Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, in particular the various types of conflict that are connected with the African continent and the efforts exerted by many African countries and the OAU to settle them.

The OAU secretary general said after the meeting that he had extensive discussions with the Tunisian foreign minister on the preparations for the OAU conference, which is scheduled to convene in Cairo at the end of this month. He pointed out that the discussion also dealt with Libya's crisis with some Western countries, which was the core of the mission that he recently carried out in Tripoli.

Salim Ahmed Salim announced that the OAU summit will make a decision on the issue of creating an African framework to settle conflicts, affirming that the special study of this subject is ready and will on this occasion be put forward to the African heads of state.

In this context, the OAU secretary general expressed his optimism and pointed out that Africa can adopt a pioneering measure to settle the conflicts that develop between African countries.

Joint Tunisian-Algerian Border Committee Meets

LD0806202693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] To confirm the common political will shared by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his brother Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC] in sisterly Algeria, and their strong determination to further boost relations of brotherhood and harmony, and strengthen the ties of cooperation and integration between Tunisia and Algeria, the Tunisian-Algerian Joint Committee in Charge of Developing Border Regions today convened in Tebarka, under the co-chairmanship of Abdallah Kellal, minister of state and interior, and his Algerian counterpart, Mohamed Hardi, minister of interior and local communities.

The committee proceedings centered on examination of the achievements of the last ten years in supporting the border regions and raising living standards of their populations. It also centered on the steps planned for the next phase, particularly in the fields of border region development, the movement of people, emergency services, telecommunications, and other steps liable to contribute to raising living standards of the populations of the regions in the economic, social, and cultural spheres.

Karoui Meets With Algerian Communications Minister

LD0906203993 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui has held talks with Algerian Minister of Culture and Communication Habib Chawki Hamraoui. The Algerian guest said that he conveyed the Algerian head of government's appreciation and greetings to the prime minister. He said that Belaid Abdesselam entrusted him with a message of fraternity and amity and asked him to inform the Tunisian people and Government of Algeria's determination to continue the policy outlined by the two governments on the basis of the great developments witnessed in the border regions. The minister stressed that this constituted a sign of trust and was evidence of the kind intention and good will that has prompted the two countries to give further and further impetus to cooperation between them on the basis of loyalty to their common history.

Kuwait

Conditions Set for Resuming Ties With Pro-Iraq States

LD0906154493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Jun 9, KUNA—First Deputy Prime Minister and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Kuwait has no objections to resuming relations with Arab states which stood with Iraq during its invasion of Kuwait—provided they clearly apologize for their error—with the exception of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its leadership, and Jordan.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, in statements published today in AL-YAMAMAH magazine, said that Kuwait welcomed any national regime in Iraq which had good relations with its neighbors and the world and was distant from greed and aggression.

In response to a question on whether there was an alternative to the president of the Iraqi regime in the opposition, Shaykh Sabah said: "Kuwait supports every national Iraqi opposition. I do not want to interfere in internal Iraqi affairs and speculate on who will fill the seat after Saddam. That is the concern of the opposition, and it is seeking now to rearrange Iraq's situation for the better."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Kuwait and the people of Kuwait were not against Iraq, but that their prime enemy was its president, who refused to make use of the right to sell his country's oil to import basic foodstuffs for his people.

Concerning Kuwait's relations with the adversary states [states which sided with Iraq during the invasion of Kuwait], and the extent of Kuwait's relations with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries in restoring relations with those countries, Shaykh Sabah said "he will talk in Kuwait's name only, because his previous statements caused an uproar in the region."

The first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister pointed out that Kuwait does not object to returning to a situation of normality with the adversary states—after they admit their mistake—with the exception of the PLO, inclusive of its chairman and leadership, and Jordan, because of what its media is propagating—which exceeds even the Iraqi media.

In a reply to a question about the restoration of relations with the Jordanian ruler, King Husayn, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat—if they personally admitted their mistake over their stance toward the invasion—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said it is very difficult to convince the Kuwaiti people of the existence of a link with Jordan and its present regime, or with the PLO figures, but at the same time Kuwait will not abandon adopting the Palestinian cause, because the disagreement is with the PLO figures.

Shaykh Sabah denied that Kuwait has abandoned its pan-Arab role, but said that it has abandoned those who claim to be pan-Arab yet showed they are not by the stances they adopted during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that Kuwait has documents from some Arab countries' delegates, in particular from the Palestinians, demonstrating their "vile" positions during the meetings which were held after the invasion of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah said that these authenticated recordings show that some Arabs have registered a stance which indicates that Kuwait is "Israel", pointing out that "the day will come when these documents will be published." Shaykh Sabah compared the stances of some Arab countries and those of some African countries which sided with the right and justice, emphasizing that the Kuwaitis, who more than all people have faith in pan-Arabism, were shocked at this stance.

Concerning relations among the countries of the region and Iran, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said it has not reached the level which would worry us "but at the same time, I believe that the relations between us and Iran must be good."

The Kuwaiti official referred to the decision made in one of the Gulf summits which stipulates that relations between Iran and the GCC countries must be based on noninterference, respect for political systems, and respect for each state.

In his interview with the Saudi magazine, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad touched on the recent visit of the Iranian foreign affairs minister to the region, pointing out that the issue of the relation with Iran was the subject of discussion during the visit. The foreign affairs minister expressed his hope that "wisdom and rationality, and considering what happened to Iraq to be a lesson to benefit from" would prevail in relations between the two sides.

Concerning the existence of a contradiction between the Damascus Declaration and good relations with Iran, Shaykh Sabah said that "the Damascus Declaration must be excluded when talking about relations with Iran, because the Damascus Declaration is among Arab countries, which is one of our rights, and we do not accept any objection from anyone."

He added that the Declaration was established between the GCC countries and countries which sided with Kuwait and the Gulf countries in liberating Kuwait. "Therefore, it is not connected with Iranian-Gulf relations."

Concerning the possibility of handing over the Iraqi terrorist network which tried to assassinate former U.S. President Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said that the United States did not ask for Kuwait

to hand over the suspects, adding that the United States knows that there are laws in Kuwait, and given that the attempt took place in Kuwait, they must be tried in Kuwait and not in America. However, we do not mind their being present at the trials or investigations; this is their right. [passage omitted]

Intelligence Services Expecting Iraqi Sabotage Acts

LD1006085493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 10 Jun, KUNA—The Kuwaiti AL-ANBA daily said today that intelligence and security services at the Defense Ministry disclosed that an Iraqi terrorist group had entered Kuwait, which suggested the likelihood of terrorist and sabotage operations in Kuwait.

The paper cited a responsible military source as saying: "As a result of that, several meetings were held to plan the training of combat troops specialized in anti-international terrorism."

There has been no official comment on or confirmation of the subject. [passage omitted]

Military Exercise Concentrates on Urban Warfare

LD0906172593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait City, 9 Jun (KUNA)—Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil al-Wara', general coordinator of Exercise Eager Sentry 2/93 in the Um al-Hayman region, said that today's military exercise is about combating and repelling terrorist attacks against the country and pointed out that urban warfare is the most difficult type of combat for a soldier. Al-Wara' added in a statement to the press that the first stage in urban warfare training concentrates on how to run an administration and set up adminstrative commands, and basic training, such as physical fitness, military tactics, and flying and landing helicopters. He said the project will highlight areas of cooperation between defense and interior forces and the National Guard.

He praised the full degree of coordination in the exercise from the U.S. and British partners.

Captain Salmi [as received] said regarding the British side: "We acquire new urban warfare expertise through participation in such exercises." He pointed out that 400 troops from the three countries are participating in the exercise.

He stressed that such maneuvers "give us the opportunity to cooperate anywhere in the world where there is a war."

Raids Bring In Unlicensed Arms, Ammunition

LD0906171093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1327 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jun (KUNA)—The arms collection force at the Ministry of Interior has managed to seize large quantities of unlicensed machineguns and ammunition, including 23 Kalashnikovs, 10 other guns, 20 self-loading Shozun, two airguns, and 13 boxes of different kinds and sizes of ammunition.

Colonel 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Awadi, commander of the arms collection force, said in a press statement today that the force carried out raids on several suspect houses in the al-Rabiah district, based on security investigations and legal procedures.

He said the raids resulted in the seizure of the above-mentioned guns and ammunition.

He said that as a result of the raids, several citizens in al-Rabiah district have handed in the unlicensed arms and ammunition in their possession for fear of punishment.

Col. al-Awadi appealed to civilians to hand over arms, ammunition, and materiel in their possession to the responsible security authorities, to avoid prosecution.

The Ministry of Interior is carrying out a tough campaign to seize all unlicensed arms and ammunition left behind by the Iraqi invasion, which many citizens are keeping despite repeated calls by the security services to hand them over to the responsible authorities for their own and others' safety.

Defense Minister, U.S. Commander Discuss Military Ties

LD0806144993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Jun, (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim received in his office today Commander of the U.S. Central Command in the Middle East Lieutenant General Joseph Hoar, and the delegation accompanying him.

A statement released by the Army Directorate of Moral Guidance and General Relations said that Lt. Gen. Hoar and Shaykh 'Ali discussed ways to develop military cooperation between the two friendly states.

Kuwait signed with the United States an agreement for military cooperation in September 1991. The agreement included conducting joint military exercises and providing military training for the Kuwaiti forces.

Lt. Gen. Hoar met earlier with Chief of the Army General Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min.

Communications Minister Meets Indian Counterpart

BK0706163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait has sought India's assistance in expanding its communication network. The Kuwaiti communications minister, Mr. Habib J. Hayat, expressed this desire during an official-level meeting with the visiting minister of state for communications, Mr. Sukh Ram, in Kuwait today. Mr. Sukh Ram assured of India's readiness to extend all possible assistance to the emirate in its reconstruction program. Mr. Hayat said his country is eager to utilize India's expertise in the application of indigenous technology in various fields. He also thanked the Indian expatriate community for their contributions in the development of Kuwait. Mr. Sukh Ram arrived in Kuwait earlier today on a three-day visit.

Economic Ties Discussed

BK0906115493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] India has offered to strengthen bilateral relations with Kuwait and has outlined the possibility of stepping up cooperation in the economic and technological fields. The communications minister, Mr. Sukh Ram, emphasized this when he called on the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in Kuwait City. Mr. Sukh Ram, who is on a three-day visit to the emirate, also met the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad. The minister explained to the Kuwaiti leaders the major initiatives taken by India to liberalize its economy to attract foreign investment. Mr. Sukh Ram said India and Kuwait can set up joint ventures in telecommunications and other sectors.

Saudi Arabia

Palestinian Support Committee Gives Donation to PLO

LD0806200493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1752 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 8 Jun (SPA)—'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, director general of the offices of the popular committees for assisting the mujahidin of Palestine, said that at the instruction of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh and chairman of the committee, 10,405,801 rials, the sixth installment of the revenues of the committee for the current year, were handed over to the PLO today.

Al-Jamus made clear that with this installment, 59,418,550 rials have been handed over to the PLO in the current year. [passage omitted]

Western Press, 'Spiteful Campaigns' Assailed

LD0406140193 Riyadh SPA in English 1236 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, June 4 SPA—[passage omitted on Information Minister al-Sha'ir receiving information delegations accompanying foreign pilgrims] For his part 'Ali al-Sha'ir, the information minister, conveyed to members of the delegations the greetings of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and said "we welcome the information missions in the kingdom—the cradle of Islam, the land of love and peace."

"The Muslim nation is one nation, it is the nation which calls for the good of the humanity and spreads justice and lifts all kinds of injustices," he said. He pointed out that the speech delivered by the Saudi monarch and the crown prince last Tuesday was a comprehensive one and rich with useful meanings. Al-Sha'ir deplored the biased campaigns launched by certain western quarters against the Muslim and Arab countries. "These spiteful campaigns reflect the jealousy of these quarters over the bounties showered on us by the almighty God," he said. "All thanks are due for the almighty Allah as we enjoy security, stability and prosperity," he said. "We are able to confront these spiteful campaigns by authentic campaigns, but we would like to follow the Holy Koran which says:

and the servants of (God)
most gracious are those
who walk on the earth
in humility, and when the ignorant
address them, they say,
"peace." (chapter furqan, verse no 63)

Underscoring the important role that might be played by the information media, al-Sha'ir urged the Islamic media to shoulder its responsibility towards clarification of the concepts of the Islamic creed and teachings. The disasters faced by the Muslim world should teach us a good lesson, he said. Al-Sha'ir deplored the Muslim writers, who stand in one trench with some quarters in the western press to defame the Muslims. "Some days ago I read in an Arab newspaper, which is published in a fraternal Arab country, an article by a western writer attacking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, " said al-Sha'ir noting that the western newspaper in which the western writer used to publish her articles had refused to publish that ugly article. "How can an Arab newspaper publish an article rejected by a western newspaper? Where are the bonds of religion, blood, language and loyalty to the causes of the nation?"

"Why do some Arab writers try to insult a country which has never insulted any one? The kingdom which is based on the principles of Islam honors its obligations and never hesitates in supporting its brothers.

"The kingdom has been mobilizing its potentialities to ensure the comfort of the pilgrims," he said. "Our king,

who has refused to be called 'his majesty' and preferred to be named 'custodian of the two holy mosques' has been working sincerely for his country and dedicating his efforts for the service of his people. The kingdom has implemented the gigantic expansion projects at the holy places and has been publishing the Holy Koran in millions so as to spread them to the Muslims throughout the world. Moreover, we have set up seven universities and hundreds of schools with more than four million students. Our king has been unwaveringly exerting efforts to realize Arab and Muslim solidarity," al-Sha'ir said.

Baghdad TV Airs Interview With Two Iranian 'Spies'

JN0906200793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Two Iranian spies have admitted that during the 30-state aggression against Iraq, Iran prepared elements with special training to carry out disturbances inside Iraq.

The two spies spoke during an interview broadcast by Baghdad television during its major newscast tonight. They admitted that they were born in al-Shush and that they are affiliated with Iranian intelligence. The first spy, Qasim Jasim, was born in 1971 and carries the pseudonym Rahman Petahpor. The other spy is Hasan Muhammad 'Ali. He was born in 1971 and carries the pseudonym Mahmud Ibrahim Najat.

The two spies confessed to having been tasked with carrying out disturbances inside Iraq after they received training in various types of sabotage, including street fighting and the use of explosives. They indicated that some of the groups trained by the Iranian intelligence entered the marshlands of Maysan, al-Basrah, and al-Huwayzah with the intention of carrying out acts of sabotage in the southern areas of Iraq.

Opposition Claims MKO Military Base Blown Up, 18 Killed

LD0806155193 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Dehloran, Ilam Prov., June 8, IRNA—Some 18 leading members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) were killed recently in attacks launched by the Iraqi opposition groups, an informed Iraqi opposition source announced here Tuesday.

He said the opposition forces infiltrating into an army base in At Tannumah city, 25 kms from Baghdad, annihilated the MKO headquarter at the base in three successive bomb explosions.

The source said 12 MKO members were killed and several vehicles were destroyed during the operation, conducted last Wednesday.

The MKO troops at the base operating under Iraq's 10th [word indistinct] Brigade, he said [words indistinct] unidentified Iraqi opposition groups launched another armed attack on an MKO command vehicle and killed its two passengers in front of the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad.

According to the same source, the Iraqi security forces surrounded the area and conducted search operations following the attack.

Meanwhile he revealed that another MKO vehicle moving on Khanaqin-Naft Khaneh road was attacked by armed assailants killing four members.

These attacks on the MKO forces, carried out for their close cooperation with the Baghdad regime, have caused them great panic and reduced their movements, the source claimed.

Opposition Forces Claim Radar Posts Destroyed

LD0906203893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition forces claim they have destroyed Iraqi regime forces' radar installations in al-'Amarah Province. According to the opposition sources they used semi-heavy weapons in the attacks, killing a large number of Ba'thist forces in the process.

In another operation, Staff Colonel Fadil Jasim, the official in charge of the military wing of the Ba'thist Party in al-Basrah Province, was reportedly killed.

Regime Attack Reported on Marshlands in Late May

NC0906152093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In late May, tyrant Saddam Husayn's forces attacked areas in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate, including al-Hashiriyah, (al-Khadrah), (al-Salimah), and (al-Karmil). Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] sources said the ostracized regime's forces used long-range heavy artillery to strengthen the attack.

The sources said the regime's criminal forces stormed villages and homes, beat up citizens, stole their money, and arrested dozens of them.

SAIRI added that the tyrant's regime has reinforced its forces around the marshlands with units from the so-called Republican Guard. These units were instructed to carry out extermination campaigns against southern marshlands residents.

Austria's Vranitzky Apologizes for Nazis' Crimes

AU0906195993 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1600 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Report by Armin Wolf and Roland Machatschke—recorded, Vranitzky statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Announcer Raimund Loew] Today is probably the climax of Vranitzky's visit to Israel, at least regarding relations between Austria and Israel. This morning the Austrian chancellor visited the Holocaust memorial of Yad Vashem. In the visitor's book, he wrote: The danger is never banished forever. Let us remain vigilant in the service of all people.

Vranitzky's statements on the Nazi atrocities are the double focus this evening. On one hand, Vranitzky has just received an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for his speech in the Vienna Parliament in 1991. For the first time, he spoke of Austrian participation in Nazi crimes. On the other hand, a few minutes ago Vranitzky once again broached the subject of Austria's coming to terms with its past in his expression of thanks.

We will be able to bring you the text of central passages of this speech, but first you will hear from Armin Wolf reporting from Jerusalem:

[Wolf] Never before has an Austrian top politician found such clear words about the darkest chapter of Austria's past and its later treatment as Chancellor Vranitzky in Jerusalem a few minutes ago. In the amphitheater of the university, which overlooks the Judean Mountains, in front of fluttering Israeli flags with the Star of David, Vranitzky spoke of the Austrians' collective responsibility and of the many Austrians who joined the Nazi machinery and helped it work. Just as we claim credit for our good deeds, we must beg forgiveness for our evil ones, Vranitzky said.

It was a vote of thanks for having been awarded an honorary doctorate from Jerusalem University. He received the doctorate for his first speech on this topic in Austria's Parliament two years ago. In the substantiation of the honorary doctorate, it was said today that Vranitzky publicly apologized for Austria's role during the Nazi tyranny and was the first Austrian to express the responsibility to face one's past in an appropriate way. This unprecedented and courageous gesture by an Austrian top politician came from a man who stands at the head of the European struggle against fascism and anti-Semitism.

Today Franz Vranitzky affirmed his words of 1991 and stated many things more clearly than ever before. This fact and where these words were said—namely in Jerusalem—make this speech so remarkable.

In the morning, Vranitzky visited the Holocaust memorial of Yad Vashem and laid a wreath in the Hall of Memory in front of the Eternal Flame. Yad Vashem is the most devastating thing I have ever seen, the chancellor said after his walk-about.

[Loew] That was Armin Wolf from Jerusalem. As I said before, we present to you the text of the most important excerpts from the Austrian chancellor's speech. Roland Machatschke summarizes it.

[Machatschke] At the beginning, Chancellor Vranitzky mentioned that he is the first Austrian chancellor to come to Israel and that he is in Jerusalem for the first time. The impressions that he received there—from the peaceful Rose Garden to the lively streets of the old part of the city, from the solemn silence of the Yad Vashem memorial to the Wailing Wall—gave rise to the most profound and even troubling emotions. Then Vranitzky said:

[Vranitzky] These emotions are linked to the closeness that many Austrians feel for Israel. But even more so, they are linked to the tragedies of our common past. Standing on this historic site, on (Scopus) Mountain, the cradle of academic education in modern Israel, I think it is only correct to say a few simple and clarifying words about Austria and the dark years between 1934 and 1945.

The end of World War I found the old Austria dismembered and deprived of her industrial hinterland and multicultural identity. In this situation of impoverishment and hopelessness, many Austrians turned to the Nazis and supported the anschluss, which erased Austria from the map.

We clearly have to face the catastrophe, which the Nazi dictatorship brought upon my country. Hundreds of thousands of Austrians, many of them Jews, were thrown into prisons and concentration camps, perished in the Nazi slaughter houses, or were forced to flee and leave everything behind—victims of a degenerate ideology and totalitarian policy of power. Many Austrians died on the battlefields and in the bomb shelters.

There were those who were courageous enough to offer active resistance against the madness or tried to help the victims, risking their own lives by doing so, but many more joined the Nazi machinery, and some rose in the hierarchy into the circle of the most brutal, hideous perpetrators.

We have to live up to this side of our history. Our share of the responsibility for the suffering, which not Austria—for the state no longer existed—but which some of her citizens inflicted on other people and on humanity. We have always felt and still feel that the term of collective guilt does not apply to Austria, but we do acknowledge collective responsibility—the responsibility of each and every one of us to remember and seek justice.

We share responsibility because many Austrians welcomed the anschluss, supported the Nazi regime, and helped it to function. We must not forget those who

suffered unspeakable fates. We must not forget those who caused this pain. We must not forget those who offered resistance. I said in the Austrian Parliament, and I want to repeat this avowal firmly again today: We admit to all that has happened in our history and to the deeds of all Austrians, be they good or bad. Just as we claim credit for our good deeds, we must beg forgiveness for the evil ones—the forgiveness of those who survived and the forgiveness of the descendants of those who perished.

This moral responsibility weighs double for Austria, because we are aware of how much of ourselves, our own life, our culture has been destroyed in the fire storm of Nazi barbarity. Much of what Austria is proud of today—from Siegmund Freud to Gustav Mahler, from Arnold Schoenberg to Ludwig Wittgenstein, from Karl Kraus to Theodor Herzel, from Stephan Zweig to Viktor Adler—is part of our Austrian heritage. In sharing collective responsibility, we appraise this heritage; we claim it to be part of our history.

I am here to represent a new, modern, and self-confident country, an independent and a democratic state, which has been established as an antithesis to Nazism. In fact, many founding fathers of the Second Republic were survivors of the concentration camps and prisons of the Third Reich.

This is one of the reasons why the Moscow Declaration of 1953, which declared Austria the first victim of Nazi aggression, was accepted as the only truth and for a long time would block the recognition, the acknowledgement of the other, the dark side of our history.

This may also be one of the reasons why there are so many misunderstandings surrounding Austria's record in caring for the victims of the holocaust. Over the years Austria has undertaken enormous financial efforts to this end. Often, these efforts seemed to come too late, timid, and in piecemeal fashion, so as if to hide a guilty conscience.

In the past couple of years, a lot has been done to change the situation and the Austrian Government will continue to improve assistance and to broaden access to it by closing loop-holes, be it through the Austrian social security system or directly through Jewish organizations both in Austria and abroad.

We know that all the tragic losses, suffering, and pain cannot be undone. What we can do, apart from material and financial efforts, nevertheless, is to offer a warm and an honest welcome back to Austria to all those who were driven out of the country and whom no Austrian Government in the years after the war ever asked to come back.

The recent change in the relevant laws, for instance, enables Nazi victims to regain Austrian citizenship without having to give up their present one and without the prerequisite of having their permanent residence in Austria. Another initiative is the visiting program for emigrants, but also for their children and grandchildren, who come to Austria. We invite them, we invite you all to come and to rediscover a democratic, social, and open-minded country that has learned its lessons from history, to discover Austria's small but active Jewish community, and to see how much of our common cultural heritage is still alive.

But let us be aware: Throughout Europe the collapse of communism and the deep economic recession have brought back the ghosts of the past. Nationalism, xenophobia, and intolerance are rampant again, as are the slogans and insignia of Nazism. I have made it a priority of my government to prevent the spread of this disease. So far, we have been successful. The violent outburst that we have seen in other parts of the continent are unknown in Austria, and efforts of gaining political profits from xenophobic agitation have failed miserably. There is one fact that makes me confident also for the future: It has been especially the young generation in my country that has stood up against nationalistic demagogism in an impressive way.

[Machatschke] In continuation, Chancellor Vranitzky discussed the process of European unification, which Austria expects a lot of. Concerning the Middle East, he said that unfortunate circumstances have prevented the peaceful coexistence of Arabs and Jews and have brought unspeakable human suffering to both sides of the conflict. Now, however, a solution seems to be in sight for the first time since Camp David.

Cancels Meeting With Palestinians

TA0906195193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Visiting Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has called off a meeting he scheduled for tomorrow with a Palestinian delegation, who will instead meet with one of his aides. Replying to a question by our correspondent Arye Schorr, Vranitzky said he changed his plans after learning that the most senior participant on the Palestinian side, Faysal al-Husayni, would not be able to attend because of his trip to Washington. [passage omitted]

Offers To Mediate With Iran

TA0906153293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In a meeting with President Weizman and Foreign Minister Peres, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky today said his country will consider the possibility of mediating between Iran and Israel if asked to do so. Shim'on Peres, at times visionary and at times skeptical and sober, sees no point in pursuing contacts with Iran in the near future. Our correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Vismonsky] Our relations with Iran are good, but not better than are our relations with other countries. This was stated today by Austrian Chancellor

Dr. Franz Vranitzky in a meeting with President 'Ezer Weizman, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek:

[Vranitzky, in English] The role of an intermediator could be taken by us, but only starting from one very important precondition, and that is that we will be asked to do so.

[Vismonsky translates the above and continues] Reacting to Vranitzky's comments, Foreign Minister Peres said that Iran's attitude to Israel precludes any negotiations at the present point:

[Peres, in English] I am afraid that the present Iranian Government looks upon Israel like a collective Salman Rushdie, and I cannot see any rapprochement for the time being, either between Iran and Rushdie or between Iran and us, and very much because of Iran. I would say that we have approached the Austrian authorities on many occasions, including now, to help on some very painful issues, like for example, the whereabouts of Ron Arad, our lost navigator, and usually the response of the Austrian Government—like many other governments—was very positive on that particular issue.

[Vismonsky translates the above and continues] President 'Ezer Weizman said he hopes that Israeli-Austrian relations would improve, and that the two nations would move closer, 50 years after the Holocaust. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 9 June reports that in a speech at Hebrew University in Jerusalem on the occasion of being awarded an honorary doctorate, "Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky called on his fellow Austrians to recognize their collective responsibility for the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis. Some Austrians valiantly faced up to the Nazis, he said, but many others joined the Nazi apparatus and some of them even proceeded to become the worst of criminals."]

Aide Clarifies Rabin Remarks on U.S. Role in Elections

TA1006095193

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 June carries a report on an interview Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave to the East Jerusalem AL-QUDS newspaper. Prime Minister Rabin is cited as having said that "he would not be opposed to U.S. congressmen supervising the elections in the territories." The report notes that Rabin "said that he would agree to permit East Jerusalem residents to vote in the elections to the self-government council. However, they would be prohibited from running as candidates. In the interview, the prime minister said that the negotiations with the Palestinians are not over a territorial arrangement but rather over the distribution of control and management of land in the territories."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 10 June reports that "following the publication of Yitzhaq Rabin's interview in AL-QUDS, the prime minister's media adviser told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that the prime minister has not agreed to congressional supervision of the elections in the territories but only to the process being monitored by congressmen."

An earlier report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 10 June notes that "the Likud has criticized the remarks Rabin made to AL-QUDS. Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said that the prime minister's agreement to having U.S. congressmen supervise the elections in the territories constitutes another concession by Israel and a departure from the principles of the Madrid conference. Today Israel will accept U.S. supervision of the elections, and tomorrow it will agree to the presence of UN observers in the territories, MK Ben-Elisar said. MK Yehoshu'a Matza said that the prime minister's agreement to permit East Jerusalem Arabs to vote is another step on the road to dividing Jerusalem and transforming it into the capital of Palestine."

Sources Say Vienna Meetings May Yield Results

TA0906072093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The United States intends to make another effort to implement its policy of active involvement in the peace talks. After a rather unconvincing involvement in the previous round of talks, the Americans are now trying to work in two directions: at the Washington talks and in parallel moves. This is apparently the rationale behind U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's intention to hold consultations with regional leaders next week in an attempt to advance the peace process.

Between 14 and 16 June, Christopher will be in Vienna for the UN conference on human rights. The conference is slowly turning into a Middle East summit: Shim'on Peres, Faruq al-Shar', and 'Amr Musa will be there. Christopher will hold discussions with the three foreign ministers in an attempt to reach understandings that will allow parallel progress in the talks which will be held in Washington at the same time.

Political sources in Israel believe that if Christopher feels that a political breakthrough is attainable, he will go from Vienna on a brief shuttle mission to the Middle East. This, however, has not been confirmed by any other source.

As for the talks between Israel and Jordan, about which Foreign Minister Peres said that only several minor points remain open, it now becomes apparent that in the ninth round of talks, progress was made in the discussions of the economic subcommittee. The two countries reached agreement on one of the issues in dispute: Jordanian export of goods to the Palestinian autonomy.

According to the agreement, Israel will allow Jordan to export $11-million worth of goods annually to the areas under Palestinian autonomy.

Rabin Cuts Peace Talks Team To Reduce Costs

TA1006081893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jun 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to make a significant cutback in the number of officials attending the peace talks in a bid to achieve a significant reduction in the cost of each round of talks. [passage omitted]

A senior source revealed yesterday that the total cost of all the rounds has reached $2.5 million, because it was often necessary to dispatch special planes, pay for accommodations in luxury hotels befitting official state representatives, finance expensive meals, and so forth. [passage omitted]

It was therefore decided, in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, to slash the number of Israeli participants to an essential minimum and to send 40-50 staffers to the next round. It was stressed, however, that the cut has no political significance and was motivated by financial factors only.

Rabinovich Sees 'Good Foundations' for 10th Round

TA0906074793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador in Washington and head of the delegation for talks with Syria, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan on 9 June—recorded]

[Text] [Zohar] Do you share the American optimism regarding the peace talks?

[Rabinovich] I remain cautiously optimistic. We are trying not to move back and forth between optimism and pessimism on a daily or weekly basis. It is encouraging that the Arabs clearly agreed to attend the next round of talks—unconditionally and a week in advance. This is different from the tension and haggling that preceded the previous round. We believe it is a good sign that the Palestinian delegation is indeed coming for early consultations despite previous warnings. I believe this lays good foundations for the beginning of the talks. I would suggest that we reserve our optimism for the end of the talks.

[Dan] Let us discuss another foundation said to be at the basis of the talks, at least according to Faysal al-Husayni, the leader of the Palestinian delegation, who said that in the negotiations, the Palestinians are laying the foundations for the establishment of a Palestinian state in five years.

[Rabinovich] One of the foundations laid at the Madrid conference says that first we will reach an interim arrangement and will begin negotiating the permanent arrangement three years later. Naturally, this situation has a certain degree of built-in vagueness which allows each party to understand it according to its heart's desire. Any Palestinian representative is entitled to interpret it as he sees fit, but we are conducting negotiations on an interim arrangement which leaves some matters unresolved.

[Zohar] Regarding the meetings Warren Christopher plans to hold in Vienna or here, is there an intention to raise the level of the talks?

[Rabinovich] No. I believe the main purpose of his trip to Vienna is to attend the UN conference on human rights. Many foreign ministers will attend the conference, including Middle East foreign ministers. I assume that the secretary of state will meet with some of them and discuss a series of issues, some of which are related to the peace process. This, however, has happened before and should not be viewed as raising the level of the discussions.

[Dan] Are we safe in assuming that the aforementioned U.S. optimism does not include the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] Yes. Our consultations [with the Americans] regarding Syria have not been held yet. I believe that no Syrian delegation is expected in Washington before the beginning of the talks. The Syrian delegation will apparently arrive on 14 June and will meet with the Americans that day, because the talks are scheduled for 15 June. On our part, in addition to our regular contacts, we will hold consultations with the Americans toward the weekend about what they may have heard from the Syrians prior to the Syrian delegation's arrival. At the moment, we have no reason to be particularly optimistic or pessimistic.

[Dan] Do you believe Foreign Minister Peres' remark, alleging that the agreement with Jordan is ready and only needs to be signed, has harmed the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] I do not believe it has caused any harm. The agenda, 98 percent of which was ready, was eventually leaked by the Jordanians. Therefore, I do not believe they are ambivalent about Peres' declaration. Furthermore, the Jordanians have recently appointed 'Abd-al-Slam al-Majali, former head of the Jordanian peace talks delegation, as prime minister. I believe that although they do not intend to lead the entire move, they certainly have no regrets about the talks.

[Zohar] Thank you, Professor Rabinovich.

Comments on Prospects for Progress

TA1006060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the delegation to the peace talks with Syria, by Hayim Zissowitz on 10 June—recorded]

[Text] [Zissowitz] The various Arab and Israeli delegations are arriving in Washington one by one in order to hold preliminary consultations prior to the resumption of the peace talks. Israeli Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich, who also heads the delegation to the talks with the Syrians, refused to display overt optimism this morning. Rabinovich said, however, that he had seen encouraging signs already in the preconsultations stage.

[Rabinovich] To the best of our knowledge at this point in time, in the course of the preconsultations prior to the upcoming round of talks, they have not issued any new and satisfactory clarification of the most basic question, which is their concept of peace.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe that any joint declaration of principles will be signed with any of the delegations during the upcoming round of talks?

[Rabinovich] I think such a possibility exists; however, I do not wish to make any forecasts or set down any outlines that could later turn into sources of either general pressure on us or personal pressure on myself. I definitely believe that we can achieve what I would describe as a tangible expression of progress on at least one of the tracks. I believe that this is possible and would be in our mutual interest; however, we will not define this as a goal, as this would then commit us and put us under pressure.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe that this will happen on the Palestinian track?

[Rabinovich] I think that if we do not receive positive indications from the Syrians, while, on the other hand, the Palestinians emit positive signals, then we should look for progress with the latter.

[Zissowitz] Was the closure on the territories discussed during the preliminary discussions? Will it feature in the talks as a condition for the formulation of the joint declaration of principles?

[Rabinovich] The question of whether this issue is raised—and I do not believe that the Palestinians hold many meetings with the Americans, Europeans, or even with us in which it is not brought up—does not always mean that one must accept whatever is said and that every complaint about the closure is authentic; however, the closure is part of our reality. Some of the Palestinians do not welcome the closure or certain aspects of it, and as far as they are concerned, it features on their political agenda. Nevertheless, this time no one is talking about conditions. I think that one of the positive developments that differentiate this round of talks from the previous one and the round of talks at the end of April is that this time there are no preconditions, and the Arab foreign ministers' convention in Amman was distinguished by the fact that no preconditions were issued. I regard this as a very welcome phenomenon.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 10 June in a related report on the peace talks by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, and news agencies on pages A1, A9 notes that Ambassador Rabinovich said yesterday that "Syria's refusal to emit any prior signals regarding its intentions in the upcoming round of talks 'raises some questions.' He explained that prior to the previous rounds, the Syrians had usually signaled their intentions through different public and private channels. This time, despite the feelers sent out in President Clinton's letter, Syria has not conveyed any messages. 'This raises the question of whether the Syrians are bringing anything new with them this time', Rabinovich said. As for the Palestinian track, Rabinovich asserted that there are some positive signs, such as more optimistic assessments on the part of various Palestinian spokesmen with regard to the results and achievements of the previous round of talks. 'Therefore,' Rabinovich said, 'we are setting out on the assumption that if we invest efforts to reach a concrete product at the end of this round of talks—such as a statement of principles or something else—then there is a chance for greater progress than in the previous round.'"

["Rabinovich also noted other signs of the positive atmosphere, which he described as phenomena related to the 'mentality of the process.' Rabinovich pointed to, among other things, the moderate statements recently issued by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd; the appointment of 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the former head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, to the post of Jordanian prime minister; and the invitation to Environment Minister Yosi Sarid to attend the environmental convention in Morocco."

[A related report on the peace talks on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 June adds that "Ambassador Rabinovich believes that one of the major factors that influenced various Arab personages to voice optimistic statements regarding the peace process was the fear that the United States would lose interest in the peace process and abandon the role of full partner in the talks." Rabinovich explained that people in Washington "had been sensing for some time that the high level of interest in the peace process could be lost and that it could drop in the administration's order of priorities. I feel, the ambassador said, that the Arabs also began to sense this and that at least some of the optimistic statements are designed to neutralize what both Israel and the Arab parties consider a negative development."]

Political Figures React to Kuwaiti Boycott Decision

Call Step Unrelated to Talks

TA1006094593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and ITIM]

[Text] The Kuwaiti decision to lift the secondary boycott on Israel was the result of Kuwait's indebtedness to the United States in the wake of the Gulf war and is unrelated to the peace process, political sources in Jerusalem revealed yesterday.

The sources stated that since the Gulf war, the United States has been pressuring Kuwait to announce that it is lifting the boycott on Israel in return for the military assistance it received from the United States during the war.

"Kuwait feels truly indebted to the United States, whose soldiers physically protected its soil from Saddam Husayn," the sources affirmed. "The fact that Saudi Arabia is about to issue a similar statement stems from the same reason: It also feels it must pay its debt to the United States."

The same Jerusalem elements were skeptical about the emergence of a new trend in the Arab countries. It is repeatedly emphasized in Jerusalem that "there is no connection between the Kuwaiti decision and the peace process." Furthermore, surprise was expressed at the fact that Foreign Ministry elements rushed to link the decision with the peace process.

Jerusalem is stressing that whatever the reasons, the step will undoubtedly affect the atmosphere at the bilateral and multilateral talks.

'Oded 'Eran, deputy director general in charge of economic divisions in the Foreign Ministry, said yesterday that the Kuwaiti step constitutes a significant breakthrough, because it is the first time that an Arab foreign minister has announced that his country no longer applies the secondary boycott to foreign firms.

'Eran added that the step has practical implications, because it affects two sectors: direct dealings between Israeli and foreign companies and Israel's capability to trade with Arab countries. The boycott also undermines Israel's ability to raise foreign investments.

'Eran said that the first breach has been made, and it should now be widened by the industrialized countries. According to him, a declaration by these countries condemning the Arab boycott would apply additional pressure on other Gulf states.

Beilin: Other States Should Follow Suit

TA0806113793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gid'on Zelinger—live]

[Text] [Zelinger] Good day to you, Deputy Minister Beilin.

[Beilin] Good day to you.

[Zelinger] How significant is the Kuwaiti move of lifting the boycott on companies that trade with Israel?

[Beilin] If this move is real, it is significant due to its overt nature, among other things. The United States told us about this move six weeks ago. They told us that the Kuwaitis told them they were not honoring the secondary and tertiary boycott. Incidentally, the primary boycott remains in effect. Kuwait is one of the 17 Arab states that implemented the primary, secondary, and tertiary boycott.

[Zelinger] The primary boycott prevents Israeli companies from directly exporting or trading with Arab states, does it not?

[Beilin] The primary boycott refers to any economic connection with Israel, not only by companies, but also at the government level. The secondary boycott refers to a boycott on companies that trade with Israel, while the tertiary refers to boycott on companies that have a connection to companies that deal with Israel.

[Zelinger] Is this boycott significant? Can you assess the damages it caused to the Israeli economy?

[Beilin] The most recent assessment by the Israel Chambers of Commerce is that Israel has lost approximately $44 billion since the establishment of the state, and the Arab boycott even preceded that date by three years. This means that we are speaking about an annual loss of almost $1 billion. I admit, however, that this calculation is not accurate, because in this case we have to calculate what was not actually received, investments that have not been made, and connections that were not made. This calculation is not absolutely accurate. Obviously, we are paying a very high price for the Arab boycott. The Kuwaiti move constitutes a harbinger. Even if this does not put an end to the primary boycott, it is certainly significant, because its overt nature will hopefully legitimize a similar move by other elements in the Arab world.

[Zelinger] What stands behind the positive statements emanating from Kuwait, Jordan, Libya, and even from Tunis? Do these statements make you more optimistic on the eve of the resumption of talks in Washington next week?

[Beilin] I think there has indeed been a change since the Madrid talks. When there is such a comprehensive negotiations process with the Arab world, when we meet

our enemies in the bilateral talks and almost all our neighbors—except for Syria and Lebanon—in the multilateral talks, there is undoubtedly a new situation being created. In this new atmosphere, the boycott is turning into something anachronistic even in the eyes of many people in the Arab world. Moreover, we have recently increased our activity aimed at the West, especially the United States, Europe, and Japan, unequivocally asking them to insist on the termination of the only boycott in the world that is not directed against the policy of any country, but rather against its very existence. The United States is very helpful in this matter. Surprisingly enough, the Japanese are also helping us. We are exerting efforts and are hopeful that the issue of the boycott will be firmly raised at the next meeting of the G-7 and that the Arab world will be urged to end the boycott.

[Zelinger] Turning to the negotiations with the Arabs, do you think it is time to upgrade the talks to the ministerial level, to send Peres to Washington and perhaps to have him meet his Syrian counterpart?

[Beilin] I do not think the problem is with us. We are certainly interested in upgrading the talks and in holding a meeting between the most senior levels—our leaders and the leaders of the Arab world. The Arab world—to be precise Jordan, Syria and Lebanon—are those who are unwilling to upgrade the talks at this point.

[Zelinger] Thank you very much, Yosi Beilin.

Finance Minister Notes Need for U.S. Aid, Guarantees

TA1006065393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that he has initiated a serious debate over next year's state budget because he feels the discussions held in previous years bordered on the absurd. The cabinet used to hold a three-day debate on the budget, whereas now the cabinet will discuss the issue for three months, the finance minister said.

Shohat expressed the hope that the consumer price index will rise by only 10 percent in 1993, the rate predicted by the government in the current budget. The finance minister said he is pleased with the drop in unemployment but warned that rejoicing is not in order despite the clear trend toward lower unemployment levels. Shohat reiterated that Israel needs all the aid it receives from the United States and the full amount of loan guarantees because Israel's absorption of immigrants and its need to create jobs are of a scope unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

As for a public holiday on local council election day, Shohat said people can vote in the afternoon and there is no reason for the economy to lose a day's work.

Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion on Peace Talks

TA0906150993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government on the grounds that the negotiations with the Arab delegations are being conducted sloppily. The Likud faction claims that the government's policy is pushing Israel toward the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories and jeopardizes the status of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the motion will be discussed next Monday [14 June].

At Budget Debate, Rabin Says Privatization Too Slow

TA1006111293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] At today's cabinet debate on next year's state budget, Prime Minister Rabin said that the privatization of government companies is proceeding too slowly. Rabin demanded that the process be significantly accelerated.

The prime minister told the assembled ministers that he had met with senior Treasury officials on 8 June and had demanded that the Treasury's Budget Department and government ministries implement new working procedures that would permit greater flexibility in handling requests made by the ministries and in transferring budgets between them. Mr. Rabin said that next year's budget emphasize continuing the struggle against unemployment, mainly through economic growth. The prime minister added that Israel will have to deal with the crisis currently affecting the defense industries.

Earlier, Treasury and Bank of Israel officials presented their assessments with regard to the new budget.

Agreement on Bilateral Trade Signed With Albania

TA0906150793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In Jerusalem today, Industry and Trade Ministry Mikha Harish and Albanian Foreign Economic Trade Minister Artan Ilmi Hoxha signed a memorandum of understanding on the development of bilateral trade ties. The two ministers also decided to exchange business information and to send a delegation of Israeli businessmen to the Albanian capital of Tirana to examine the economic prospects there.

Paper: Mubarak, 'Arafat Supported Libyans' Visit

TA0906115693 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 9 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanaymi and Batya Feldman]

[Text] The Libyan pilgrims' visit to Israel was not just a Libyan or Israeli gimmick. The visit was thoroughly planned and received the blessing of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and of Yasir 'Arafat.

Prior to the decision on the Libyans' visit to Israel, al-Qadhdhafi sent Muhammad Qadhdhaf Adam [name as published], his deputy and a member of his tribe, to Cairo. The envoy reported to Mubarak on the anticipated visit.

Mubarak's aides checked with Jerusalem and learned that Israel welcomed the idea. The Egyptian president supported the operation. Yasir 'Arafat was also informed and supported the Libyan pilgrims' visit.

A delegation of Libyan-born Jews still intends to leave for Tripoli without any change in its plans. According to Refa'el Pelah, who worked out the details of the trip with al-Qadhdhafi, the delegation will leave for Tripoli in mid-July. Delegates from around the world will fly to Italy and from there will sail to Tripoli. According to Pelah, al-Qadhdhafi made a commitment to fund the trip and provide kosher food, as well as security.

Civilians Reportedly Imprisoned for Security Offenses

TA0906114793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jun 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Gabi Bron]

[Excerpts] Three Israeli civilians are serving lengthy prison terms after being convicted and sentenced for security offenses, including contact with a foreign agent, espionage, and transmitting information to the enemy, YEDI'OT AHARONOT was told yesterday by an authoritative source. None of the prisoners was in active service with the security forces when arrested and tried.

It has been learned that since the state was established, there have been at least another six cases in which Israeli civilians, all Jews, were tried for offenses against state security, served prison terms, and were released, without the public knowing anything about the offense, the arrest, and the trial. Only the prisoners' families knew of their fate, but undertook not to say anything after being warned that any publicity would worsen the prison conditions of their relatives. [passage omitted]

Through 1967, more than 10 Israelis were recruited by foreign intelligence services, mainly the East European bloc, the USSR, and Hungary. After the Six-Day War, with the closure of the East European embassies in Israel, the numbers of Israelis involved in spying for foreign countries dropped drastically. [passage omitted]

Ordnance Corps Unveils Driverless, Crewless Tank

TA0906151593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Ordnance Corps today for the first time unveiled a driver-less and crew-less tank. At this point, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is using the tank for training and testing purposes. The crew-less tank, nicknamed Pele [Wonder], was unveiled on the occasion of Ordnance Corps day being marked today. The Ordnance Corps also exhibited armor-plated vehicles used by IDF soldiers in south Lebanon to counter the threat of roadside bombs and missiles.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a demonstration of a bomb detonating near an armor-plated safari truck and the passengers coming to no harm was staged for the journalists. Chief of Ordnance Brigadier General 'Ami Shagis emphasized that despite the improvements there is no absolute measure to prevent terrorist attacks.

Residents Report Gazan Killed by Army Gunfire

TA0906070493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In Gaza City, a 21-year-old Palestinian was reportedly killed last night. Local residents of the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood say the man was killed by Army fire, following a stone- throwing incident.

Security forces have captured a terrorist in Bayt Sahur, near Bethlehem. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the territories says the man, Sahur al-Din, is suspected of throwing firebombs at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

Civilian Stabbed by Arab Woman at Erez Checkpoint

TA0906131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] An Israeli citizen was stabbed near the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip this afternoon. A young Arab woman slightly wounded him in the back. The man managed to apprehend the woman and alerted the security forces. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the assailant was detained for interrogation. The man was evacuated for medical treatment.

Arab Child Killed; Several Injured in Gaza Camp

TA0906162793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The security forces today conducted an operation in the al-Burayj refugee camp to search for wanted men. A curfew was imposed on the camp this morning, and as soon as it was lifted in the afternoon riots erupted in which a 12-year-old boy was

killed and at least 10 other locals were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire. The IDF once again clamped a curfew on the camp.

In the city of Gaza, the security forces captured two wanted men who had been hiding in a house in al-Nasir Street. An IDF unit on a special mission in the area spotted the wanted men and broke into the house. The two were soon captured, along with another four locals who helped them hide.

It should be pointed out that despite all these incidents no extraordinary clashes were registered today in most towns in the Gaza Strip. Hardly any local inhabitants complied with the Unified National Leadership of the intifadah's call to observe a general strike today, as they do every ninth of the month. The call notwithstanding, some 15,000 laborers reported to work in Israel while in the Gaza Strip itself, laborers reported to the make-work jobs provided by the Civil Administration in order to ease the hardships of the closure.

Gazan Sentenced to Life; 3 Wounded Near Bethlehem

TA0906194793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Gaza military court today sentenced Dayya Zakariyya Fallaji, an inhabitant of Khan Yunus who was convicted of the murder of Amatzya Ben-Hayim in a hothouse in the settlement of Ganey Tal eight months ago, to life imprisonment.

Three masked men were wounded this evening in the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem by border policemen's gunfire. The policemen spotted the three, who were armed with axes and clubs, and when they fail to heed the calls to halt they opened fire at them. The three wounded men were transferred to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem, and a curfew was clamped on the Ayda refugee camp.

Research Claims Extensive Torture of Prisoners

TA0906150393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jun 93 p A7

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] Some 96 percent of the Palestinian prisoners imprisoned for periods of between six months to 10 years claim they were beaten up, according to research on the torture of Palestinian prisoners conducted by Gaza's mental health program.

The research indicates that recourse is being made to a variety of psychological and physical torture methods in order to obtain a confession against the detainee or others. The research reveals that 89 percent of the prisoners claimed they were tortured by being forced to stand for a prolonged time; 72.1 percent were warned that their personal security or that of their relatives will be harmed; 72.1 percent were forbidden the use of toilets; 2.7 percent were tortured by other means, including electric shock; and 15.5 percent were tortured by the use of tear gas.

The findings of the research, which was conducted by Dr. Iyad al- Siraj and Suhayl al-Salami, was presented yesterday by Knesset members Tamar Gozansky of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Ya'el Dayan of Labor, and No'omi Hazan of Meretz.

According to Dr. al-Siraj, the Shin Bet has stopped using electric shock during interrogations and has also stopped inserting objects into the genitals and rectum of suspects. [passage omitted]

Monitoring System Operated By Dimona Reactor

TA0906164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Nuclear Research Center in Dimona set up a three-dimensional monitoring system that operates within a 5-km range of the reactor. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling notes that this was disclosed this evening by members of the Atomic Energy Commission at the end of the first tour of its kind held for environmentalists and journalists in the vicinity of the reactor. It was emphasized that no dangerous or high concentrations of radioactivity have been registered in the reactor since it was built 30 years ago. Nature Protection Society staffers who took part in the tour said they were convinced that the safety of hikers is in no danger.

National System Established

TA1006064593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Over the past few weeks, the Environment Ministry has established a national monitoring system to track radioactive emissions. The system includes five measuring stations in Kefar Hasidim, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ramat Hovav, and Dimona. This last station, which is currently being completed, will be situated near the Nuclear Research Center. This was reported last night by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid after a media correspondents tour inside the research center.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling notes that from now on, there will be regular periodic inspections and that samples and measurements will be taken from the vicinity of the Nuclear Research Center. The general public will have free access to the results of these inspections, which will be published.

King Husayn Views Election Law, Talks, U.S. Visit

JN0906211193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Husayn made an unannounced visit to the Prime Ministry grounds where Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali was meeting with local, Arab, and world media representatives. This is in line with his majesty's approach of keeping the lines of communication open between the executive branch and popular, intellectual, and media representatives in the country to consecrate democracy that his majesty seeks to deepen for the good of his united Jordanian family and the Arab nation.

Asked about reports that there were plans to change the existing election law, his majesty said that no specific position or opinion has crystallized regarding this law, which he said was constitutionally and legally flawed in that it is discriminatory in terms of rights and obligations. His majesty said that it is too early to think about changing it. If we should decide to effect a change or amendment to the law, this will take place after a comprehensive national dialogue involving the Jordanian family to which all of us belong; this dialogue will take place in a family and brotherly climate in keeping with the democratic system under which we live and which we are keen to keep going, just as happened in the case of authoring and endorsing the National Charter.

His majesty stressed the vitality of developing Jordanian-Palestinian relations and continuing the joint coordination. Asked about Palestnian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, his majesty said the two sides are in total agreement about ongoing coordination on all fronts and are investigating all possibilities of developing, deepening, and strengthening this coordination. This, he emphasized, is translating into reality on the ground. Jordan, he added, will do everything possible to support Palestinian rights. I believe that the Jordanians and Palestinians are one family whose destination and aims are one and the same. We will not seek to force on them any opinion or stand to which they object.

Discussing the peace process, his majesty emphasized that Jordan will not conclude a separate peace with Israel and that the Palestinian question is the core of the conflict in the region. Asked about the draft Jordanian-Israeli agenda, his majesty said that Jordan made its acceptance of the agenda—which he called mere items to be discussed on the Jordanian track—subject to progress being made on all other tracks, especially the Palestinian track.

Asked about his projected visit to the United States, he said that his trip to Washington will be primarily a working visit in response to an official invitation from President Bill Clinton. During his U.S. visit, he noted, he will discuss all aspects of the Middle East crisis and other regional issues. His majesty hoped the visit will lead to better relations with the United States, and indicated that he was optimistic about the visit. Obviously, the U.S. Administration attaches importance to the visit and so do I, his majesty said. My visit to the U.S. capital will take place as a new administration that raised the banner of democracy and human rights takes office. He will brief Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of his U.S. visit after his return to Amman, his majesty said. His majesty said that while in the United States, he will undergo routine medical checks, noting that medical reports show that he has pulled through and that he is in excellent health. He pointed out that the medical examinations he will undergo are routine and prearranged.

His majesty warned against the danger posed to the democratic process in Jordan by its enemies who take cover behind it as they seek its destruction. In their endeavor to undermine democracy in Jordan, some are attempting to misrepresent our stand and portray Jordan as being unstable. He urged the media to keep its guard up and counter such attempts through democratic means, especially at this crucial juncture of our life. His Majesty King Husayn stressed his keenness to restore Arab solidarity and to heal the Arab rifts. The Arab individual must be made to feel his human dignity and to live in a democratic climate, his majesty declared.

At the outset of the meeting with the media, which was attended by Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Ali al-Safadi, the prime minister's media adviser, Dr. al-Majali answered reporters' questions that addressed local and Arab issues and the peace process. He stressed that the government has not yet studied any new election law and that if a decision was made to effect any change in the existing law this will take place through the shura process that underlies the government's political decisions so as to serve the public good.

Al-Majali Supplements King's Comments

JN1006094093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn yesterday made a surprise visit to the Prime Ministry's gardens where a meeting was in progress between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and local, Arab, and world media representatives. [passage omitted]

Responding to questions on the peace process, al-Majali said: The Arab states' participation in the peace process has contributed to changing the old image in the mind of the Western citizen on Arab issues and gave the international community a better understanding of the Arab cause.

He added: Jordan's concern in the peace process focuses on four basic issues: Regaining our occupied territories estimated at 350 km, redrawing international borders, regaining our water rights, and guaranteeing the security and safety of the homeland and citizens. At the same time, we stress the need for Israel to implement UN

Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, stop displacing Palestinians, keep away from separate solutions, and support the Palestinian people in their just cause. He affirmed that Jordan will not sign any separate peace treaty with Israel and that it links progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track with progress on the other tracks, especially the Palestinian track.

Dr. al-Majali said: Some progress was made in the ninth round of peace negotiations. Jordanians and Palestinians have formed three separate temporary working groups with the Israelis on the environment, energy, land, security, refugees, and humanitarian issues. However, he added, progress did not last for long because of difficulties on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Dr. al-Majali said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are strong and that Jordan is willing to help the Palestinian brothers all it can. He noted that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination should continue and expand beyond just political coordination.

He also talked about Jordanian efforts to highlight the Palestinian identity which has become acceptable to international parties and Israel as a result of the peace talks which were launched in Madrid.

Dr. al-Majali stressed that Jordan is to the Arab states as the heart is to the human body. If this heart is strong, then the Arab entity is strong and vice versa. This shows the need to maintain Jordan's strength and solidity so it can play its pan-Arab role in the region.

'Arafat Makes Statement Upon Departure From Amman

JN0906154693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon following a three-day working visit to Jordan. During his visit, 'Arafat met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials as part of the coordination of Jordanian-Palestinian positions on the peace process and the enhancement of joint fraternal cooperation in various fields.

In a press statement at Queen Alia International Airport, replying to a question by the Jordanian news agency on the PLO's position on the U.S. proposal to keep the 10th round open, so the peace process will continue uninterrupted, President 'Arafat said: During their meetings in Amman and other Arab capitals, the foreign ministers of the states concerned with the peace process agreed that the rounds of negotiations should be successive, and not continuous, so we can follow up the Arab consultations among ourselves, assess each round separately, and sort out what is good and what is bad and also what will be in the interest of our Arab nation and causes, led by holy Jerusalem and the Palestine question.

With regard to his visit to Jordan, President 'Arafat said: My visit to Jordan has been positive and constructive. I held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, and the positive results will appear on several levels, whether pertaining to the Palestine question—our Arab nation's cause—led by holy Jerusalem, or pertaining to the negotiations with Israel and the unification of the Arab positions in order to face challenges and achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

The Palestinian president added that he will visit Damascus very shortly to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and hold talks dealing with the peace process and the current Arab situation.

Discussing Israeli practices in the occupied territories, 'Arafat said: Israel still places obstacles to the peace process.

President 'Arafat was seen off by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Paper Praises Coordination, Ties With Palestinians

JN0906110893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jun 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Palestinian Coordination in Very Good Shape"]

[Text] Proceeding from his belief that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is the cornerstone of Arab coordination relating to the peace process, His Majesty King Husayn is always willing to meet with the Palestinian leadership for talks as part of joint understanding of the reality and future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Yesterday's meeting between King Husayn and President 'Arafat comes as part of the consultations and coordination to crystallize a united stand on the negotiations and the intial progress these negotiations have achieved. It is well known and His Majesty King Husayn has said that the draft Jordanian-Israeli agenda has not yet taken its final form.

It is also well known and His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated that Jordan will not take any step toward reaching a separate agreement or settlement with Israel. Most if not all of Jordan's concern is focused on achieving a just solution to the Palestinian problem that would fully restore to the fraternal Palestinian people their legitimate national rights, foremost of which are their political rights.

Moreover, it is well known that Jordan supports the Palestinian stand and provides it with the necessary canopy and facilities that would enable the Palestinian people to regain their occupied territories and establish an independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

Jordan, its leadership and people, appreciates the willingness of the Palestinian leadership, especially Yasir 'Arafat, to establish a confederation between Jordan and

the independent Palestinian state once it is established after restoring the occupied Palestinian territories and all the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Relations between the two fraternal people are distinct and historical and they should remain that way.

It is noteworthy that President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn coincide with the positive and successful results of the meeting held in Amman by the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states. During that meeting, the Arab foreign ministers crystallized a united stand on participation in the 10th round of negotiations and emphasized the constants of the Arab stand based on international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. They also stressed the achievement of a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution and the rejection of separate agreements and settlements.

Once again, we say that the Jordanian-Palestinian summit reinforced Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and opened wide prospects for further discussions on and understanding of relations between the two fraternal peoples. The important thing is that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is in very good shape.

Allegations Over Separate Peace 'Obviously Unjustified'

JN1006091393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "No Need To Panic"]

[Text] Undue anxiety has developed over the status of the Jordanian-Israeli track within the ongoing bilateral peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington in mid-June. Many observers have interpreted the near complete agreement between Jordan and Israel on the agenda of their talks as an imminent sign that Jordan will outpace the other Arab parties in concluding a peace treaty with the Jewish state. But the outcry about where Jordan has reached in its peace negotiations with Israel is obviously unjustified.

Not that there is any or should there be any complexes about reaching an agreement with Israel since that is what the peace parleys are all about. Given the fact that Jordan is permanently committed to achieving comprehensive peace with Israel on all fronts, all the confusion, innocent or deliberate, about the ultimate Jordanian intentions must lay to rest also permanently.

But this is not the whole story. Even if Jordan and Israel agree on a mutual agenda or a framework for their future talks, there can be no doubt that any such accord is but the beginning of the long and tortuous road towards full and lasting peace treaty. It is one thing, and indeed a very small thing, to agree on an agenda and quite another to reach an accord. Every step of the way during the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations on the basis of the agreed upon agenda will be a steep uphill battle that is fraught with dangers and hardships. We in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World must not jump into conclusions before the actual bargaining between the two sides have come to fruition. There is every hope that the Jordanian-Palestinian track will bear fruit and we need not be defensive or embarrassed about any such positive development. Since the country is committed to make any possible accord with Israel contingent on similar successes on other fronts, there can be no justifications for uncalled for phobias or circuitous reactions from any quarter. Hopefully all the parties attending the tenth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington will register real progress in their negotiations. All sides agree that the Palestinian-Israeli talks are the most pressing and critical because without progress on that track not muct progress can be expected on the other fronts. Jordan is totally and unequivocally supportive of the earliest resolution of the Palestinian conflict on the basis of the U.N. Resolution 242. This posture cannot be more emphasized than it has already been. Without meaningful movement on the Palestinian question there can never be movement on the Jordanian side.

Buwayz Urges 'Comprehensive' View of Talks

PM0906135693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 7-13 Jun 93 p 18-19

[Interview with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-WASAT] Why does there tend to be confusion after every round of bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations or before a new round? Is the reason that failure is the natural result, or is there something behind the scenes which no one wants to leak before it ripens?

[Buwayz] The word confusion does not really reflect the reality of the peace negotiations. We want this peace to be comprehensive. That is, this peace can only be achieved with the approval of all the Arab concerned. We want to draw a distinction between this peace and the possibility of separate agreements with Israel, on the basis that the basic issue is the Arab-Israeli dispute issue—which transcends the issue of bilateral disputes between each Arab state and Israel.

[AL-WASAT] Does that mean that all the Arab states, not just some, are concerned with this dispute? If yes, does that mean that all the Arab states, not just the cordon states, will be concerned with the solution?

[Buwayz] Certainly. Who represents the Arabs when we say that this dispute is an Arab-Israeli dispute? All the Arabs represent the Arabs. There is not one sole representative of the Arabs. There is no power which can say that it alone can speak in the name of the Arabs or the Arab issue. On that basis, we should have a unified position on the peace issue. More progress might be made sometimes on one Arab-Israeli front than on another—which causes those who made progress to wait for those who are still late in making progress. That necessitates coordination toward unity of ranks and unity of decisionmaking.

[AL-WASAT] Which Arab delegation, or which Arab-Israeli track, has achieved more progress than the other tracks?

[Buwayz] In every round there are some technical advances or technical setbacks, depending on Israeli maneuvers in the round. Thus one delegation makes progress in some rounds, and another delegation makes progress in other rounds. That is not the important point. We should look at these negotiations comprehensively, not tactically or circumstantially. It is natural for some delegations to achieve more positive results than others in some rounds. What is important is for the general outcome to be positive. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] Until that wish is realized, let us ask you: After the ninth round of negotiations, how would you assess the course of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Buwayz] I cannot say that the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are still as they were when they began. However, I cannot say that they achieved either what was expected of them or what we hoped to achieve, hence the disappointment in the negotiator and the disappointment especially in the ninth round, on which big hopes had been pinned. Anyhow, I am aware that thorny negotiations like these require time and cannot be judged by one round or one phase. They should be assessed comprehensively.

[AL-WASAT] Where does the defect lie? And why did the ninth round not realize the hopes pinned on it?

[Buwayz] I believe that the Israeli delegation still deals with the negotiations as technical or commercial negotiations that have no philosophical or historical depth. I also believe that the United States, which has a fundamental role in this process, must play the role of a mediator who deals with the essence of every issue. The U.S. role is at present limited to fixing dates for the rounds and naming the meetings' venues—which is not sufficient.

[AL-WASAT] What is required?

[Buwayz] What is required is for the United States to define the [Madrid] conference's aims and to radically push Israel in that direction, instead of us continuing to engage in futile negotiations designed to avoid blame rather than to work seriously for solutions. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] But the United States says that it is playing the role of a full partner. Has the nature of this role not been discussed with it?

[Buwayz] It is not easy at all to determine the nature or the role of a full partner. It is an expandable expression, and the United States can play this role the way it wants. It can say that it is playing this role in full and limit it to technical issues. It also can address the crux of the problem as a fair mediator. So far we do not feel that the United States is really aware of the importance of the Arab states' and regimes' response to the peace process. And we feel that the Arab world is at this stage characterized by wise and courageous leaders, in contrast to what we see in Israel. The United States and Israel must exploit this opportunity. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] It is understood from your statements that you as Lebanese officials are not satisfied with the Israeli reply to the Lebanese reply concerning the Israeli document.

[Buwayz] I said that the Israeli paper includes new points which require a great deal of clarification and crystallization before they can become acceptable proposals. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] What do the Palestinians want? A few days ago you received a high-level Palestinian delegation headed by [PLO Political Department Head] Faruq Qaddumi. How was the atmosphere at the meeting?

[Buwayz] Like us, the Palestinians complain that the ninth round did not live up to the hopes pinned on it.

They also complain that the Israeli proposals are still ambiguous and do not do what is required to impart an impetus to the peace process. The Palestinians proposed that an Arab meeting be held to assess the situation in isolation from any meeting linked to a possible invitation. It was agreed to hold a meeting to assess the ninth round and at the same time draw up a view for the future of the peace process. I believe that this meeting will be held in Amman in the first half of this month. [passage omitted]

Shammas Announces 10th Round Participation

NC0906140093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Within the framework of the preparations for the 10th round of peace negotiations, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning chaired a meeting attended by all members of the Lebanese negotiating delegation. Head of the delegation Ambassador Suhayl Shammas explained after the meeting that Lebanon has formally informed the cosponsors of the peace conference that it will take part in the 10th round of the peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Buwayz on Request To Join Damascus Declaration

NC0906174893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has affirmed that Lebanon had submitted a request to join the Damascus Declaration. He said a number of member states were consulted on the request. Buwayz had the following to say:

[Begin recording] Lebanon submitted a request to join the Damascus Declaration a few months ago. We have discussed this request with a number of member states. Following my visit to the state of Qatar, I sent a message to the Arab foreign ministers of Declaration signatories, expressing Lebanon's readiness to join this group and to adopt its statute. However, the date has not yet been set. [end recording]

Sources: GCC Did Not Accept Lebanon

NC1006071993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] AL-HAYAH newspaper today cites informed Gulf sources as denying that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states have agreed on Lebanon joining the Damascus Declaration.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced yesterday that an exact date for Lebanon's acceptance in the Damascus Declaration is not known. He said that Lebanon had requested to join the Damascus Declaration a few months ago, and this showed Lebanon's readiness to join this group and adopt its laws and goals that seek the unity of the Arab fold and coordination and solidarity on several issues.

Fadlallah Hits Arab 'Normalization' With Israel

NC0906081293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] To mark al-Ghadir day [a Shiite religious event], the foundation stone for al-Ghadir mosque and cultural center in Burj al-Barajinah was laid at 1730 today [as heard] under the patronage of Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. [passage omitted]

'Allamah Fadlallah delivered a speech on the significance of al- Ghadir and the importance of mosques. [passage omitted]

Touching on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, his eminence noted that Israel seeks a full peace at all political, military, economic, and cultural levels. It wants a peace through which it can infiltrate the policies of all the Arab countries, and it will not be content with mere diplomatic relations, he said.

'Allamah Fadlallah expressed surprise that the Arabs are pursuing the negotiations to please America and Israel. He called for support for the resistance, which rebelled against arbitrary lines one should not cross. He said: Stand at the imposed line and think how to cross it to find all alternatives. Otherwise, in the near future we will see a settlement and a normalization with Israel under the shadow of fragile regimes only good for oppressing their peoples. His eminence said:

[Begin recording in progress] ...lifts the economic boycott against Israel. Another Arab country sends its citizens to Jerusalem. An Arab country receives an Israeli delegation, and yet another Arab country allows all Jews to visit it. They are competing to gain American-Israeli blessings. Dear brothers: We need to think as a unified nation. Do not think as individuals, annoyed by a pain here and a problem there. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticized Over Jerusalem Pilgrimage

NC0906101493 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial by Talal Salman: "No, Mu'ammar!"]

[Text] No, Mu'ammar! Regardless of excuses and justifications, regardless of hatreds and prejudices, regardless of your Arab brothers' mistakes toward your beleaguered country, and regardless of your position threatened by one of the biggest of the forces of international terrorism—terrorism that is camouflaged by international legitimacy—this is not the way to take revenge on brothers who have disappointed you.

This is not the way to expose the defeatist regimes that have specialized in humiliating their citizens and the citizens of other states outside their jurisdiction.

Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa mosque need "liberators", not "pilgrims", and not those who carry Israeli visas to pray where 'Umar [the second caliph] prayed!

Holy Jerusalem is not a substitute for holy Mecca. The "liberation" of Mecca is not served by our recognition of the usurpers of Palestine and its capital, Jerusalem. Similarly, going to Mecca to pray in its holy mosque does not serve the cause of the liberation of Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

No, Mu'ammar! This overindulgence in sin is impermissible, be it for revenge, for the sake of opening the closed U.S. door, or for the sake of entering it through the Israeli door.

Entering the Israeli door does not provide safety. Neither does it provide peace. The saga of al-Sadat is still fresh in our memories. As regards the saga of the Palestinian negotiators, it is too bitter and disappointing to be called the age of Arab-Israeli peace.

You have sinned against your nation twice: The first time was when you violated the consensus there, although you were one of those on whom some hopes were pinned. The second time was when you justified the deviation of several regimes, above all that regime which pushes others to commit sins and which beautifies these sins for them. That regime only moves after other regimes have moved and after it is assured that it will not be labelled a traitor.

The mere presence of Saudi middleman Adnan Khashoggi in this "deal" should have sounded the alarm for you not to get involved. Your involvement has given a good conduct certificate to that regime, allowing it to justify all its mistakes and to compare them with the mistakes of nationalists and unionists and their mortal sins.

No, Mu'ammar. You are not al-Sadat. You were his opposite. This was a source of honor for you. You were in charge of a glorious banner. No one had expected you to lower it.

The people will not accept from you any justification, you who are the "custodian of Arab nationalism and Arab unity." You will even bring a curse on Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who awarded you this honor, and on the pan-Arab call for unity, which has made you for some years one of its heroes and which has inflated you more than the size of your country would allow. Before your unionist revolution, your country was a forgotten place which people hardly knew anything about, with the exception of 'Umar al-Mukhtar, one of the symbols of Arab heroism.

No, Mu'ammar, you are the hero of the al-Fatih revolution, whose codeword was Jerusalem. You should not come to Jerusalem as an infiltrator if you cannot come to it as a conqueror. For whatever reason, you should not visit it just to win the blessing of U.S. acceptance. This is an excuse worse than guilt.

If you are accepted by Washington because you are recommended by Israel, the Arabs, including the Libyan struggling people who are about to become extinct because of their support for Arabism, will no longer need you.

The Arabs have accepted you as a revolutionary, an advocate of change, a pioneer of unionist work. Now you are behaving worse than other rulers. You will lose the hereafter without winning this world.

No, Mu'ammar. You are not like this. You must back down immediately, if only to minimize your losses. Peace be on those who follow their righteous course.

Al-Hariri Meets, Talks With Phalangist Group

NC0906131693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri received a delegation from the Phalangist Party's Salvation Committee today. The delegation consisted of George Kassab, Alfred Madi, and Georgette Anton.

After the meeting, Kassab made a statement:

[Begin recording] [Kassab] [passage omitted] First, we visited his excellency the president. We then met with the prime minister. Other meetings will follow. I would like to explain that these meetings are not connected with the ongoing campaign [between the opposition and the government]. These meetings were set in advance so that we can continue work.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us what you discussed at the meeting?

[Kassab] We wanted to learn from the prime minister about the course of events, his recent visits abroad, and the current status of the peace talks. [passage omitted] The second part of the meeting dealt with our status as a salvation committee and with our plan of action for the coming weeks and months. We put his excellency in the picture so that our work will harmonize with the course we agreed upon with the interior minister.

[Correspondent] In the past few days we have noticed that the opposition has launched a campaign against the government. In return, the government has answered this campaign. We want to know your stand on this subject.

[Kassab] In a previous statement, we as a salavation committee have defined our stand on the peace plan in Lebanon and on the general course of events. Our position is clear. Unlike others, our opposition or non-opposition is not seasonal. Our positions are clear. We adhere to the peace plan. We oppose it when there is a flaw in the implementation of this plan. We support it

when positions are taken that favor the country. In the past few days, some have adopted a seasonal opposition which changes according to who is in power. This concerns others. I do not believe the current opposition is a real and effective opposition which we can all respect. We have no connection with the new opposition.

[Correspondent] As a salvation committee, have you obtained verbal permission from the interior minister to continue your party work? Will the verbal permission become written permission so that you will continue your work officially as a salvation committee? Did you discuss the subject with Prime Minister al-Hariri?

[Kassab] Regarding the verbal permission, if it was an invention, we did not invent it. The Interior Ministry informed us we have permission to establish a center and to start political work. Matters are proceeding accordingly. There are no problems created by the Interior Ministry. The prime minister reaffirmed what the interior minister conveyed to us. There are no problems whatsoever. [end recording]

Response to Phalangist Criticism

NC0806155293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has responded to the campaigns against the government. He said: There must be a limit to the farces. We do not want to reopen wounds.

Junblatt pointed out that the Ministry of Refugee Affairs is currently remedying a large part of the devastation caused by the Phalangist Party.

In an interview with al-Mustaqbal Television, Junblatt commented on the Phalangist Party's criticism of Prime Minister al-Hariri, saying: Had this statement been issued by another party, it might have given us a pause for thought. We might have tried to analyze the reason for the criticism. But it should not come from the Phalangists, who, with the Israelis, were instrumental in ruining Lebanon and causing the civil war when they ruled the country under Bashir al-Jumayyil and Amin al-Jumayyil and monopolized all [government] jobs. Let the Phalangist brothers allow me to say: This cricitism is totally unacceptable. [passage omitted]

He added: As to their claim that the government's decisions are arbitrary, I wish to tell them that I am a cabinet member and I know that decisions are not made arbitrarily but after consultations. [passage omitted]

Opposition 'Will Not Cease'

NC1006114493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has stressed that opposition will not cease until it has achieved its goal of rescuing the country from the situation in which it is floundering. He denied that any official has asked him to cease this opposition. He said: Our position stems from the constituency, which expresses itself.

Sa'adah was speaking after visiting [former Prime Minister] Salim al-Huss, preceded by another call on [former Prime Minister] 'Umar Karami at the head of a Phalangist Party delegation made up of Political Bureau members Antoine Shadir and Shaykh Simon al-Khazin.

Fifteen Charged With Inciting Riots

NC0806180393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Justice Nasri Lahhud of the Military Court has charged 15 individuals with forming a society aiming to undermine the state's authority and public security, organize riots, and instigate ethnic strife. The charges are linked with incidents that took place in al-Shuf and Nab' al-Safa on 7 May 1993 following rumors that an ulema was detained by an army roadblock. The Army Command has requested a legal investigation into the case.

Gunmen Assassinate Fatah Official

NC1006090193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Gunmen entered 'Ayn al-Hulwah's government hospital and shot Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din [not further identified], who was being treated for burns. He was later moved to Shu'ayb Hospital in Sidon and placed under guard by the Internal Security Forces. He suffered three bullet wounds in the head and is in a coma.

In 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp last night, gunmen shot and killed Ahmad Muhammad al-Makhzumi, alias Abu-Ayman, Fatah official in charge of investigations.

Abu-Nidal Group Accused

NC1006112393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The Fatah Movement has accused Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], of assassinating Ahmad Muhammad al-Makhzumi, Fatah official in charge of investigations, in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp last night.

Birri on Opposition, Peace Negotiations

NC0906133793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Current developments were discussed this morning at the provisional presidential office during a meeting attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Birri briefed the president and the prime minister on the results of his recent visit to Damascus and on the fine advice he carried with him.

After the meeting, Birri said that constructive opposition should be created if it does not exist. He called on the opposition to focus on the government as a governing body and not on individuals. [passage omitted]

Regarding the peace negotiations, Birri said it is strange that unilateral moves toward concessions and open reconciliation are being made by more than one Arab country. He stressed that Lebanon has offered and is still offering a great deal. No positions by any Arab country—whether it is near or far, in the Gulf area or elsewhere—should be made if they do not work for the benefit of the general common Arab interest, particularly for the benefit of southern Lebanon, which faces daily hardships. He warned the Arabs that they may achieve something, even through negotiations, if they are united, but may achieve nothing if they are divided.

Sagger Missiles Wound 4 IDF Soldiers in South

TA0806162693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Four IDF [Israel Defense Force] soldiers on their way to one of the outposts in the eastern sector of south Lebanon were slightly wounded by the blasts and splinters when the area was shelled, our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports. The IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] fired back at terrorist targets north of the security zone. The wounded soldiers were transferred to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Quiet has now returned to the area. Lebanese sources told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv that the terrorists fired four Sagger missiles and then mortars.

Earlier, a SLA soldier sustained medium wounds when a roadside bomb exploded in the eastern sector. He was hospitalized in Safed hospital. Hizballah took responsibility for both incidents.

Sources Say 4 Killed, 3 Wounded in Attacks

NC0806171893 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, June 8 (AFP)—Attacks by guerrillas and Israeli army helicopters left four soldiers and three civilians wounded in south Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said.

The soldiers were wounded when Katyusha rockets hit their position on a hill in Israel's "security zone" along the border in a strike claimed by the Islamic Resistance, armed wing of the pro- Iranian Hizballah movement.

It said a tank had been hit and its crew killed or wounded.

Shortly afterwards Israeli army helicopters launched a missile attack on Hizballah strongholds in the western al-Biqa' valley.

Three civilians, a man, his wife and sister were wounded when two missiles hit their home in Zillaya, security sources said.

Overnight Israeli Artillery Shelling Reported

NC0906072293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Dispatch from an unidentified correspondent in southern Lebanon]

[Text] Zionist attacks against the villages of al-Nabatiyah, the central sector, and Iqlim al-Tuffah continued overnight. From their positions in al-Zaffatah and Jabal al-Rayhan, enemy large- caliber artillery shelled the towns of al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, Tilal Safi, and Jabal al-Akhdar for one hour around midnight. Ten 120-mm artillery shells fired from the occupation positions on the hills of 'Ali al-Tahir fell near the Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. At dawn, enemy forces used machine guns and rockets to rake the al- Litani River basin near the towns of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, reaching further up to al-Qa'qa'iyah. The outskirts of Jarju' and the southern extremities of 'Ayn Bu Siwar also came under Zionist sniper fire from the Sujud hills.

Radio Reports Israeli Actions in South

NC0906141793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Our security correspondent has learned that the Israeli army this morning reinforced its position in Haddathah with four tanks, five armored personnel carriers, and other military vehicles, including a mobile operations room. During the reinforcement operation, there were two explosions near the position. The cause is unknown.

The South Lebanese Army [SLA] has reinforced its positions in Bra'shit and al-Tiri with armored vehicles.

The south remains tense after five Katyusha rockets fell on Israeli and SLA positions in the security strip last night. The Israelis responded by shelling the heights of Iqlim al- Tuffah.

One of the people wounded in yesterday's Israeli helicopter raid has died of her wounds. The raid followed a battle in western al-Biqa' yesterday between resistance fighters and Israeli and SLA forces.

[In a related report on the security situation in south Lebanon, Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 9 June adds the following: "The Iqlim al-Tuffah heights have been coming under Israeli artillery fire from Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah since 1530 today. The shelling is directed at the hills of Mlita, al- Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi. The occupation forces also shelled Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi al-Hujayr from positions in al-Qantarah. The shelling was accompanied by intense sniper fire.

["A short time ago a security source reported that the al-Litani River basin and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah are being shelled. Citing security sources in the south, REUTER reported that the Agent Lahd militia this afternoon opened machine-gun fire at a school in al-Nabatiyah, wounding two people in the playground. One of the wounded is a nine-year old pupil; the other is a school bus driver."]

National Resistance Claims Attack on Israelis, SLA

NC0906171393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for an operation against the occupation and agent [South Lebanese Army, SLA] forces in Sfarin at dawn today. It said that a clash occurred between the resistance fighters and the enemy forces in which a member of the attacking unit was injured. Several enemy troops were wounded.

FRC Claims Killing of 3 Israelis

NC1006065893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Fatah-the Revolutionary Council [FRC] has claimed responsibility for an operation against the occupation forces on Haddathah Hill. According to its spokesman, the FRC detonated an explosive charge under an occupation patrol, killing three Israelis and wounding several others.

Israeli Helicopters Said To Raid Palestinian Camp

NC1006075093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] In the south, the South Lebanese Army last night kidnapped the leader of Arnun Town, 'Afif Hamdan, and a girl, Fatimah Tabbajah. The town leader was released two hours later but the girl is still being detained.

The security situation in the south was precarious yesterday. In the evening, two Israeli helicopters carried out a raid on 'Ayn al- Hulwah Camp, where they fired two rockets, according to REUTER. But AFP cites Lebanese police as saying that Israeli helicopters hovered over the camp on a reconnaissance mission.

Media Comment on Peace Prospects, U.S. Role

Amman Meeting Assessed

JN0806162493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Amman coordination meeting of Arab parties concerned with the Washington talks offered a new opportunity to promote the Middle East peace process. It urged the United States to effectively and objectively play its promised full partner role to honestly follow the bases and principles of the peace process and implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 without procrastination.

The Amman meeting urged the peace process sponsors and the international community to take the necessary measures to lift Israel's siege of occupied Arab territories, safeguard human rights there, and stop the daily Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. The Amman meeting stressed the Arab parties' solidarity with all phases of the talks in order to attain a comprehensive and just solution on all fronts.

It would be a mistake to view the Amman meeting as a mere coordination meeting designed to endorse participation in the proposed 10th round in June. In fact, the Arab parties assessed the outcome of the Washington talks and the obstacles to the desired breakthrough—obstacles that were all put in place by Israel. The Arab parties made the United States aware of its responsibilities and commitments, giving a new opportunity to the international community, so it can use all its weight to bring success to the peace process.

There is something besides coordination on these issues among the Arab parties: The Arab parties are linked by a fateful pan-Arab solidarity, represented by their concern for regaining all occupied Arab territories, led by Jerusalem, as well as recognizing the Palestinian people's national rights, repatriating the Palestinian deportees, and adhering to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. There will be no sellout of one inch of land or bargaining about any of the national and pan-Arab rights.

Hence, the Arab parties participating in the Washington talks negotiate for the sake of the single pan-Arab interest. All these parties follow pan-Arab principles. Moreover, their coordination continues before, during, and after the peace talks. Translating the adherence to the pan-Arab principles into realities, we say that it is impossible for Israel to propagate partial, separate solutions and incomplete settlements at the expense of this or that Arab party, because not a single Arab will sell out Arab territory. It is high time the Tel Aviv rulers realized this fact and abandoned their maneuvers and procrastination. Peace in the Middle East is possible provided that it is just and comprehensive. By just and comprehensive we mean that Israeli forces should withdraw from the entire Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. There should be full implementation of Security Council resolutions and termination of all features of occupation in terms of military presence, annexation of land, and establishment of settlements.

If Israel carries out a comprehensive withdrawal, it will return to the Arabs their rights and property and correct its status before the international community, thus turning an aggressive and expansionist entity into one that abides by UN laws and charters. In return for such a comprehensive withdrawal, the Arabs will give peace, which means security, tranquillity, and stability.

The Arabs are indeed making a great and esteemed offer. Therefore, they are interested in achieving an honorable peace which will be acceptable to current and future generations and will fulfill the Arab masses' aspirations. Any peace settlement will be worthless unless it returns all occupied territories, enables the Palestinian people to exercise their rights, and repatriates the refugees, the displaced persons and the deportees.

As far as Syria is concerned, the Palestine question is as important as the Golan. Had Syria been interested in a separate agreement, it would have signed such an agreement in 1973. Syria fought and sacrificed its best sons in defense of the Palestine question at a time when the Golan was not occupied. Syria today, just as yesterday, adheres to a comprehensive and just peace, as do all other Arab parties. A comprehensive solution is the basis of peace.

The Amman meeting has reaffirmed that the Arabs adhere to a comprehensive and just peace, thereby entrenching a unified Arab stand and vision. It has also given a new opportunity to the international community to make an effective move to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. We do not believe any influential world country disagrees with the unified Arab stand on the need to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. The Security Council resolutions provide for a comprehensive solution. The United States and Russia are committed to a comprehensive settlement, and their initiative is based on the land-for-peace principle. Europe and all other world states have announced that the Palestine question is the core of the Middle East conflict, and that the solution should be comprehensive and just. World politicians do not disagree that a comprehensive and just solution depends on decisive U.S. intervention. Washington promised such an intervention, and President Clinton reiterated this promise yesterday. However, so far this promise has not been fulfilled.

Israel will not actually engage in the peace process and yield to its requirements and bases without decisive U.S. intervention, supported by the international community. Thus, the ball is now in the U.S. court. The coming weeks will show if the United States will really fulfill its promises and translate its pledged full partner role into

recognizing rights, ending injustice, and entrenching international legitimacy, principles, and resolutions.

Arabs in 'Full Accord'

JN0806074693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 June 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH's editorial discusses the next stage of the peace process. The paper writes: The latest policy coordinating meetings convened in Amman by the foreign ministers of the Arab states immediately concerned with the peace process, showed them to be in full accord as to what do next. As the closing statement noted, the Arab ministers analyzed the ninth round of the Middle East peace talks and looked ahead to the next. Such an assessment will naturally help the Arab interlocutors adopt a joint Arab approach to whatever proposals or developments arise during the 10th round, AL-BA'TH says.

The Arab foreign ministers also considered the full partner role which the United States is supposed to assume and to which it has referred often enough. They pointed out that such a U.S. partnership is supposed to address substance instead of limiting itself to form. The paper adds: Granted, the responsibility for keeping the peace talks from moving forward must be laid at Israel's door. However, Washington has a role that it must fulfill if progress is to be made. In any case, AL-BA'TH goes on, there will be a 10th round. The U.S. Administration yesterday leaked a report that President Bill Clinton will himself intervene in the 10th round. It is hoped that his involvement will be based on the basic principles underlying the peace process, and, consequently, give a boost to international legitimacy and UN resolutions. It is worth remembering here that while the Arabs have done all it takes toward making a success of the peace process, Israel has to date failed to make a single move toward that end. If anything, Israel is still using its distinguished ties with the United States and other nations to obstruct the peace process, AL-BA'TH concludes.

U.S. 'Courage' Urged

JN0906120293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the intensive preparations currently under way for the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks due to be held on 15 June, saying: The Israeli position has continued to show fear of engagement in serious discussions of the basics of the peace process. It is evading such discussions. The Arab parties on the other hand are working to break the stalemate plaguing the peace talks to achieve peace in this most volatile part of the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: The peace we hope to achieve must be comprehensive; that is, it must cover all aspects of negotiations. This is because it must basically address usurped Arab rights to territory. Moreover, such peace must also provide for a recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to establish an independent state on Palestinian national soil.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Any Israeli talk of a separate or partial peaceful solution aims to undermine Arab rights, and such talk is in complete harmony with the Zionist scheme to control the region.

The paper notes Israel's endeavors to cause a rift in Arab ranks by speaking of efforts to conclude separate deals—something which could derail the peace process. This, the paper contends, is unacceptable to the Arabs, countries of the region, and the international community as well.

AL-BA'TH adds: Any separate peaceful solution would keep the region volatile. Besides, such a solution would not spare the region wars and battles.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: The efforts currently under way to prepare for the 10th round of talks must revolve around commitment to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. And here lies the importance of the role of the full partner underscored by the U.S. Administration. For such a role to fully assume its proper dimensions, it must confront the party which is evading the requirements of comprehensive peace under flimsy pretexts.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN notes the Arabs' unmistakably clear and irrefutable eagerness to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East—something which has earned them the admiration of the international community.

TISHRIN adds: The Damascus coordination meeting held on the eve of the ninth round of the Washington peace talks gave the international community a precious opportunity to contribute toward advancing the peace process and ending Israel's disobedience of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international conventions.

The paper goes on to say: Likewise, the Amman coordination meeting has given the international community in general, and the United States in particular, a new opportunity to end the stalemate currently plaguing the Middle East peace process. The stalemate in the peace talks, which has been caused by Israel's intransigence and its refusal to commit itself to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, prevented any tangible progress during the ninth round of talks. It is feared that the 10th round could meet a similar fate if the Americans fail to play the role of the full partner they pledged to play to ensure the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and obtain Israeli compliance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international conventions.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Clinton said yesterday that the U.S. intervention will be more effective during the 10th round of peace talks. However, we should not underestimate the pressures of the Zionist lobby in the United States. Several U.S. senators have started a pressure campaign by asking Clinton to bring about an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, as if this boycott were the root cause of the conflict, when hard facts show that the repeated israeli aggressions against the Palestinian people since 1948 and the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories since 1967 are the essence of the conflict.

TISHRIN wonders: Had the U.S. Congress brought pressure to bear on Israeli rulers to make them engage seriously in the peace process, peace would now have been a reality in the Middle East.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Arabs are the advocates of a just and true peace. They are opposed to separate settlements and deals. They adhere to a comprehensive solution. Hence, there must be an effective international intervention to make the Israelis succumb to international resolutions and conventions. That is why the Arab foreign ministers decided in their Amman coordination meeting to promote their contacts with the cosponsors of the peace process as well as other influential world countries. The achievement of peace in the Middle East actually requires the mobilization of the efforts of the entire international community. It also requires the Americans in particular to demonstrate courage to make Israeli rulers aware of the facts of the age. Additionally, this requires the Americans to use effective means of pressure to make Israeli rulers comply with the principles of international law and return all rights to their owners in return for true peace, which would achieve security and stability for the region.

Pessimism Expressed

JN1006101193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Opportunity Provided by The 10th Round," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Arab sides have once again taken a positive, rational, and commendable stand toward the peace process by agreeing to attend the 10th round of peace talks due to convene in Washington on 15 June. By so doing, the Arab sides have provided a new opportunity for promoting the talks and ending the serious stalemate created by the intransigent and obstructionist Israeli mentality. Had it not been for the positive spirit displayed by the Arabs and their concern for the continuation of the peace process, the ninth round of talks would not have convened in the first place. Likewise, were it not for the positive Arab spirit, the 10th round of talks would not convene. Unless there is a change in Israeli thinking in terms of compliance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process, acceptance of the principle of exchanging land for peace, and acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, the peace talks will continue to move from one failure to another, and the fate of the 10th round of talks will be no better than that of previous rounds. This would bring about the collapse of the peace process. Thus, the Middle East region would miss an opportunity for peace, and continue to revolve in a vicious circle of tension and escalation.

AL-BA'TH adds: What is odd in all this is that the U.S. Administration has continued to complement the intransigent Israeli stand. Indeed, it has failed to use any means of pressure or even persuasion with Israel to make the latter change this stand. If the U.S. Administration is concerned about the peace process, accords it top priority, and is willing to play the role of a full partner in the peace talks, as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has recently stated, all this requires the full partner to demonstrate such a partnership in a balanced and honest manner. Besides, this partnership must show its viability by identifying the party which has thus far failed to comply with the terms of reference of the peace process. Moreover, the U.S. Administration must make this party publicly subscribe to these terms so that the peace talks may be put back on track to help achieve the desired objectives.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria believe that there is still room for advancing the peace process. Additionally, we believe that peace is a necessity and a basic need for all parties in this region. Furthermore, the interests of international players outside the Middle East region who are concerned about world peace and security would also be served by the achievement of peace in the Middle East. That is why we have done everything possible to help the opportunity for a just and comprehensive peace bear fruit.

For its part, under the headline "The Awkward Optimism," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The statements being made by Israeli officials do not give rise for any hope regarding the possible removal of the numerous difficulties which have continued to prevent progress in the peace talks. Besides, these statements make it difficult for observers to identify any signals indicating that Israel will abandon its proposals, which are unacceptable to the Arabs, or that it intends to propose anything new in the upcoming talks to allow the various peace talks interlocutors to engage in serious discussions of basic and substantive issues, something which could lay the grounds for true and lasting peace that is based on justice, fairness, and full commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The fact which has become clear to all observers who are following events in the Middle East is that Israel, by its deeds and statements, is attempting to frustrate the hopes for peace and render

the talks devoid of the components that could ensure their continuation. Undoubtedly, if Israel continues to pursue this tactic in the upcoming round of talks, it will seriously jeopardize the entire peace process.

Under the headline "Justice First," the newspaper TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher pledged before the conference of major American Jewish organizations that Washington will play the role of a full partner in the bilateral peace talks, and that it will also work to ensure an end to the Arab boycott of Israel.

TISHRIN adds: The full partner role will have no significance at all if it fails to demonstrate fairness, to uphold rights, and to work to ensure the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Many Arabs justifiably fear that the U.S. Administration could pressure the Arab sides instead of Israel. The full partner role must be fair, just, and honest.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Arabs are advocates of just peace. However, they will never abandon their territories or rights, which are enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions, international conventions, and international legitimacy no matter what.

Al-Asad Confers With Lebanese Speaker Nabih Birri

JN0806170893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GNT 8 Jun 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, at 1245 today. Talks dealt with the regional situation and issues of concern to Syria and Lebanon. The president hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of Birri. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah attended the banquet.

Al-Asad Receives SAIRI Head, Delegation 10 Jun

JN1006131693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], and his delegation at 1030 today. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tehran Tripartite Meeting

JN0806140893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this afternoon after participating in the fourth tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey in Tehran on 7-8 June. He was seen off at Tehran airport by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, and embassy staff.

Minister Says 'Israeli Hands' Pressuring Turkey on Water

NC1006144293 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 18

[Report by Hamdi 'Abd-al-'Aziz from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Parliament Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah has stated that the lack of success of the "Damascus Declaration" is due to personal interests. He said the Declaration was issued for the sake of the Gulf states, who are fighting it now.

In a meeting with the agriculture and irrigation committee of the Egyptian Parliament, which visited Damascus at the end of May, Qaddurah called for a united Arab stance on all pan-Arab issues.

In a meeting with the Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Engineer Abu-Bakr al-Basil, Syrian Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani said Turkey is withholding 1.2 billion cubic meters of water, despite its desire not to damage relations with Syria and Iraq. The Syrian minister said there are hidden Israeli hands pressuring Turkey through the peace pipe that will carry water to it. Then there is Israel's desire to cause trouble between the Arab countries and Turkey.

Madani called for Islamic pressure on Turkey to enable Syria and Iraq to obtain their water rights. He said the water used in Turkey was financed by Arab capital in Swiss banks.

On its six-day visit to Syria, the Egyptian parliamentary delegation met the member of the Ba'th Party's regional command in charge of the farmers bureau. The Syrian official explained that his country has a 4 million-ton wheat surplus, the same amount Egypt imports, while Syria imports rice and nitrogen fertilizers from Egypt. Agreement was reached that the issue will be studied by the Syrian Ba'th Party's farmers secretariat.

Afghanistan

Agreement Reached on Siting Premiership Offices

LD0906165293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In the course of two days of talks in Charasiab, the security comission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs reached an understanding with esteemed Hekmatyar, prime minister-designate, on security problems in Kabul City and the permanent headquarters of the premiership. Esteemed Fahim, president of national security [as heard] and a member of the commission, told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that the security commission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was set up after the Jalalabad agreement to ensure universal calm and security, has conducted detailed talks in two sessions with the prime minister-designate on related issues and also on the work place of the prime minister and members of his cabinet in its traditional site, and they have reached complete understanding. Esteemed Fahim added: So far as the Islamic State of Afghanistan is concerned, it spares no effort to ensure complete security in Kabul City and for the start of the work of the prime minister and members of his cabinet, and it is making all-out efforts in this respect along with the prime minister. The president of national security added [words indistinct].

Oath-Taking Issue Causing 'New Controversy'

BK0906134393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Afghan Prime Minister designate Golboddin Hekmatyar seems unwilling to enter Kabul in the near future or be sworn in by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Hekmatyar has not been able to enter Kabul even after the mojahedin government was established more than a year back.

The oath-taking issue has brought new controversy to the new Afghan cabinet following the communique issued by Hekmatyar's Secretariat on Tuesday [8 June] saying that the new cabinet was not required to be sworn in as, according to the Jalalabad agreement of May 20, all cabinet posts were operational.

Presidential spokesman Aziz Murad has suggested that the prime minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar needs to be sworn in by President Rabbani in Kabul after his Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction surrenders all its heavy weaponry to the government.

The Jalalabad agreement authorised the cabinet to make decisions about the official residence and office of Hekmatyar, security of Kabul and highways, and ensure smooth supply of food and other essential commodities throughout the country.

Only nine of the new cabinet's 21 members attended its first meeting Sunday in Charasiab, Hekmatyar's headquarters to make these decisions.

The communique also requested all national elders and prominent personalities to intervene and stop those who were violating the Jalalabad accord and leading Afghans towards bloodshed once again.

It said Hezb-e Eslami was ready to honour a permanent ceasefire, help raise an Islamic army and surrender all deadly weapons provided all other groups show respect for the agreement.

Rabbani Receives Party Officials 9 Jun

LD0906173093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning with esteemed 'Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] of Afghanistan; esteemed Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad, deputy leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, esteemed Mawlawi 'Abdorrahim Khenjani, head of [word indistinct] of the Hezb-e Eslami; esteemed Mohammad Zaman Mojalel; and Qazi Najiyollah. The meeting took this morning at Golkhana hall of the state presidency.

The current situation in the country was discussed at the meeting.

Medical Doctors Condemn Continuation of War

LD0906205493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpt] A number of medical doctors and personnel held a gathering in the Central Polyclinic in Kabul today to condemn the continuation of war in Afghanistan and denounce the warmongers. The doctors and medical staff, who feel the suffering of the people more than any other section of society, have written a protest letter to the United Nations in which they appealed to the United Nations, humanitarian societies, and charity organizations to take practical measures in the reconstruction and revival of those hospitals that are desperately needed by Afghanistan's people in present conditions; and to listen to the cries and wailing of those men, women, and children who have been disabled, maimed, and injured or have lost their loved ones as a result of war.

Having stressed the heroism of Afghans in defending their country against the aggression of British imperialism and the former Soviet Union, and their role in the (?disintegration) of the former Soviet Union, the letter asked all the countries of the world not to interfere in the affairs of our country. They demanded an immediate end to the war and the establishment of peace throughout the country. [passage omitted]

Rockets, Mortars Fired Into Kabul, Several Killed

LD0906163893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In addition to a mortar shell that killed five members of a family in Ward 10, 39 rockets and mortar shells were fired into Kabul today. A responsible security source told the BIA military correspondent that last night's shells were fired from the southeast, and today's rockets, which landed in wards two, four, and five, were fired from the southwest. Besides the loss of life, much material loss was also suffered as a result of the rockets and mortar shells. A residence in ward four was completely destroyed.

India

Eleven Killed by Punjab Militants 9 Jun

BK1006082293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, Punjab militants gunned down 11 persons in Kheri District last night. A police spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that about half a dozen militants in separate incidents killed six persons in Rahipara, three in Kharana, and two in Chatarpur village. Senior police officials from neighboring districts have launched joint combing operations to nab the militants.

Punjab Police Chief on Anti-Terrorism Expertise

BK1006091893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The Punjab director general of police [DGP], Mr. K.P.S. Gill, has reiterated that terrorism will not be allowed to cast its menacing shadow on the state again. Presiding over the first raising day celebrations of the Punjab Police commandos training center at Bahadrugarh near Patiala today, Mr. Gill said a new combing operation will be launched soon in Punjab to ensure that terrorism is eliminated once and for all from the state.

Later, talking to newsmen, the DGP commended the commandos for developing an unparalleled expertise in combatting terrorism.

Minister on Plan To Restore 'Normalcy' in Kashmir

BK0906160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says that vigorous implementation of the development activities and stringent action against militants will form part of the government's plan to restore normalcy in the Kashmir valley. Talking to a group of correspondents who accompanied him on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir, he said the pressure is now on the militants, forcing them to undertake desperate acts like kidnappings.

Mr. Pilot said political parties should reactivate their cadres and take the initiative in forging links between the administration and the people. The minister said the government has decided to provide increased employment opportunities for the local youth. Opening of rehabilitation centers for suspected militants in custody is among the other measures now under way in the state.

In Jammu and Kashmir, 28 civilians have been injured in Pulwama town in a grenade attack by militants on a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol. A school student, who was among the injured, later succumbed to his injuries. Six BSF personnel were also injured. In two similar incidents in downtown Srinagar, eight pedestrians were injured when militants hurled grenades on BSF pickets and fired on BSF patrols. A BSF jawan [soldier] was injured. In separate incidents in Kupwara and Pulwama Districts, the militants shot dead two Muslims. In Anantnag District, militants set on fire a rice mill belonging to a Muslim.

Research Chief: Embargo Affecting Nuclear Program

BK0906163293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] New Delhi, June 9 (AFP)—India's nuclear programme is passing through a "dark phase" because of the embargo clamped on exports of various equipment by the United States and Europe, a nuclear scientist said Wednesday [9 June]. Indian purchases of crucial items required for nuclear research have been hit by the embargo imposed after the Gulf war, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted A.N. Prasad, director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), as saying in Bombay. "The embargo by the international weapons community is one of the steps in their stepping up of intrusive inspection capabilities as they do not trust even NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] signatories after the experience with Iran and Iraq," Prasad said. India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but claims to be pursuing a peaceful atomic programme, refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) calling it discriminatory.

Remote Sensing Satellite To Give Ocean Data

BK0906162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Indian remote sensing satellite IRS-1A will soon provide comprehensive data on the availability of fish off the west coast. IRS-1A through its data reception units along the 300-km coastline of Karnataka will provide information on the fish catch potentials in the deep sea. Karnataka Minister of Fisheries Mr. Vasant Saharyana has said that six data reception units linked with Hyderabad will be set up shortly and fishermen will be informed about the catch potential through walkie-talkies.

President of Nauru Arrives for Visit

BK1006040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The president of Nauru, a coral island in the Pacific, Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo, has arrived in New Delhi on a brief visit to India. During his stay in the capital, the visiting dignitary will have talks with the president and the prime minister. An agreement is also likely to be signed for the purchase of Nauru's 49 percent equity shares by the Indian Government in Parabik Phosphates Limited. Nauru had invested 63.8 million Australian dollars in the project. Nauru has an extensive plateau bearing phosphate of high grade.

Rao, President Hold Talks

BK1006082093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] India signed an agreement with Nauru for the purchase of its 49 percent equity shares in Paradeep Phosphates, Limited. It was signed between the visiting president of Nauru, Mr. Bernard Dowiyogo, and the minister of state for chemicals and fertilizers, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this morning. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, was also present.

Earlier, Mr. Rao called on Mr. Dowiyogo and discussed matters of mutual interests. India and Nauru had jointly set up the Paradeep Phosphates Company in 1982.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister To Arrive 11 Jun

BK0906160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, is to pay a two-day official visit to India from Friday [11 June]. AIR Dhaka correspondent reports that Mr. Rahman will call on the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the minister of state for external affairs. Bilateral issues will be topics of discussion during his meetings with Indian leaders.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged the government to impress upon the Bangladesh Government to ensure safe repatriation of Chakma refugees. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said that Chakma refugees are not willing to go back to Chittagong as they feel insecure because of the presence of the army there.

Prime Minister To Visit Oman 14-15 Jun

BK0906131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister will pay a two-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from Monday [14 June] next. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry announced this in New Delhi today. He said several agreements are expected to be signed between the two countries during the visit to give a significant commercial and economic content in bilateral relations. India and Oman have close economic and trade relations. India's oil imports from Oman during 1991-92 were valued at 73 crore rupees. Major items of Indian exports to Oman include rice, spices, textiles, meat, and manufactured goods. About 270,000 expatriate Indians are at present employed in Oman.

U.S. Linking of Aid With Human Rights Criticized

BK1006055493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Commentary by Dipta Sen of the HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] An attempt of the U.S. Congress to link aid to the question of human rights violations has just been frustrated. The effort at censuring erring governments may not appear to have a strong bearing on India because bilateral American aid to this country is paltry. But the congressional move has significance of a different kind. Its sponsor may have been a Republican senator but its supporters included Democrats. In fact, it is becoming increasingly clear that President Bill Clinton's emphasis on human rights is evoking response from all quarters in America although the President's approval ratings show a surprising decline for one who has been in office for only five months.

Although the State Department may succeed in keeping the aid question separate from human rights, Clinton administration's singlemindedness in achieving notable success in this area is likely to influence other aid givers. In the recent past, the U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr. John Malott, left none in doubt in New Delhi that the human rights issue would be a major input in Indo-U.S. relations. Together with the nuclear and missile nonproliferation issues, the question of human rights violations has assumed an importance which had not affected international relations in the past in a manner they are doing now.

Keeping in view the unipolar nature of today's world, the priority that the Clinton administration's agenda has for human rights demands a fresh look into the definition and meaning of these rights themselves. It is a good augury that even Cuba, a pariah in the eyes of the United States, has agreed to attend the UN Human Rights Convention scheduled to be held in Geneva. While the United Nations is the proper forum for discussing the matter, the international community will make a headway only if a genuine effort is made to relate the existing realities of the world to the human rights norms enshrined in the UN Charter.

The Government of India is aware of the alleged custodial deaths. This has led to the introduction of a bill in parliament which provides for the setting up of a human rights commission. Its job would be to probe charges of excesses and custodial deaths. While the concern that

Washington expresses can be understood, there seems to be a flaw in the U.S. argument. It is patently unfair to accuse government forces of excesses while overlooking or paying inadequate attention to excesses by insurgents. A biased view is apt to be seen as encouragement to a nation's disintegration on the pretext of human rights.

Pakistani 'Atrocities' in Gilgit Assailed

BK0906140393 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Commentary by Harish N. Das: "Gilgit Cries for Justice"]

[Text] No one ever sheds a tear for Shia-dominated Gilgit, once a meeting place of three empires—the Russian, Chinese, and the British. Because of its unique geographical situation, Gilgit is of great strategic and political importance in the history of Indian subcontinent. It is surrounded by impassable ranges of the Korakoram and Hindu Kush Mountains. Sunnis, with the help of Pakistan Government, have been committing atrocities on the innocent, simple Shias of the hills. The gun battles and bloody clashes between Shias and Sunnis have been seen in all parts of Gilgit. Local Shia population have been denied their constitutional rights which had been taken away from them by Pakistan under the Karachi agreement in 1948. The successive governments have not only neglected the economic and other development of the area, but have treated it as a conquered area.

The demand of independence by Gilgit Agency has been crushed by Pakistan-occupied forces mercilessly. Whenever Shias prepare a movement for restoration of constitutional rights, sectarian riots are engineered at the insistance of the Islamabad government. Covering an area of 29,000 square miles with population of over 200,000, excluding Baltistan, the region is without any economic development. There is very little rainfall, hence no vegetation except along the (?streams). Rugged and black barren rocks jut out everywhere in the region.

The region was illegally annexed by Pakistan in November 1947. The Xinjiang-Gilgit Highway constructed jointly by China and Pakistan has enabled China to make a dent in India's Himalayan defense. The area is also linked by modern air service with Rawalpindi. Earlier, the Gilgit-Rawalpindi Highway remained open for just three months in a year. Now Pakistan has constructed a new all-weather road connecting Gilgit with Rawalpindi through Swat and the Indus Valley and is opened to vehicular traffic. The road cuts through 5,180 square km of the Indian territory in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which the Pakistan Government gifted to China in 1956. It was once under the rule of Hindus under command of Nata Shah, later Maharaja Ranvir Singh, until it was taken by the British under their direct command forcefully in 1885. It was in 1925 when Maharaja Hari Singh became the ruler of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] that the British had to withdraw completely from Gilgit. But soon the British prime minister of J and K handed over Gilgit to the British Government on a 60-year lease in 1935. In July 1947, to (?save) the crumbling imperial power, the British handed over Gilgit Agency to Brigadier Gansa Singh who was appointed the governor of Gilgit by the MAharaja. But after about 100 days, Major A. Brown who was commanding Gilgit Scouts staged a coup d'etat, arrested Governor Gansa Singh and his staff, had imprisoned them in Gilgit Fort and annexed Gilgit for Pakistan. On 3 November 1947, Maj. Brown pulled down the Kashmir flag and hoisted the Pakistan flag on the Gilgit Fort in the office of British political agent and within a few days of Pakistan. [sentence as heard] Pathan officer was appointed as a political officer in Gilgit by the Pakistan Government. China made claims on part of this area and got it as a gift from Pakistan who was wanting to encircle India with the help of China and America. The famous U-2 American spy plane had later taken off from this area from (Birbar) missile base.

The Gilgit Agency has nothing to do with the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir government, though it forms a part of Pakistan-occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir. But in March this year, Pakistan- occupied Kashmir High Court had directed Pakistan Government to hand over the Gilgit Agency region and Baltistan to the Azad Kashmir government immediately, putting Pakistan Government in a fix. Should the people of Gilgit ever get this freedom depends upon their struggle and to international support that cries for freedom of Kashmir. The American agent Malott, who was wanting Indian Kashmiris to be given right to conciliation for their future, would ever see the mischief done by British and Pakistan to the innocent people of Gilgit Agency, who are crying today for their freedom from Pakistan and Chinese occupation. [sentence as heard]

Iran

Khamene'i, President Mark Religious Holiday

LD0906144293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as we informed you in the news bulletin, on the anniversary of the auspicious 'Id al-Ghadir, government officials and executives were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, to congratulate his eminence on this auspicious occasion. In the meeting at which heads of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, members of the Guardian Council and Council for the Discernment of the Expediency of the System, the cabinet, officials of the executive and judicial organizations, Majlis deputies, senior military and law enforcement commanders, representatives of the supreme jurisconsult [Vali-e Faqih], officials of the revolutionary organizations and foundations, members of the Qom seminary, the Militant Clergy Association

[Jame'e-ye Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez], the Militant Clerics Association [Majm'e Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez], a number of Friday prayers imams, ambassadors of Islamic states, and managing editors of the media were present.

First, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani congratulated His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, on behalf of the government officials and the Iranian nation, on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Ghadir. Then the great leader of the Islamic Revolution gave a detailed speech. We draw your attention to the speeches by the great leader and the president.

[Begin recording] [Crowd chants: "Khamene'i! Khamene'i! You are very dear to us! May God's blessing be on the Prophet and his scion."]

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, and His blessing on the Prophet and his scion. [passage omitted]

The blessings with which we have been endowed by following the path of that sacred family is very clear to our nation: The roots of our solidarity, unity, dynamism, steadfastness, defensive strength, and combat capability against the arrogance are found in this sacred day. It is the axis of the Islamic rule—the rule of pure Islam. A second dimension which is very constructive is that of pursing the path of a most worthy model: that of Ali ibn Abu Talib [first Shiite imam], which is without doubt the second most important human being throughout history, from Adam to the Day of Judgment. [passage omitted]

Today, our nation is endowed with the blessing of following the spiritual guidance of our great leadership—a valuable personality representative of those great men in the present age. I express my felicitations to His Eminence Khamene'i on behalf of those present and the Iranian nation, on this day. We are ready to benefit from your constructive advice. May God's blessing be upon you.

[Crowd chants: "May God's blessing be on the Prophet and his scion"]

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would likewise wish to express my felicitations to the dear Iranian nation, the honorable gentlemen who are present here, and those in the world who eagerly pursue and strive in the path of the divine guardianship, on this great and auspicious feast. [passage omitted]

One important factor concerns the establishment of God's guardianship in society. Of course, this factor has many enemies in today's world, who openly show their hostility—this hostility is not exclusive to today, and has existed since the first day of Ghadir. The reason the world is hostile toward a society based on divine guardianship and divine rule is very clear. Much has been said about this, and everything is more or less clear. Naturally, those who are seen as the pillars of such a system must endeavor every day to become closer to the original model. This is our first lesson of Ghadir. As I mentioned in a previous speech, some people have said that the values of the revolution had gradually been weakened several years after its victory. That claim, although rendered as an analysis, was in fact a kind of signal by the enemy.

It is true that some friends also repeated this unconsciously. However, the enemy who has insisted on this and will still do so, wants to register something in people's minds and that is that weakening the values of the revolution is a prerequisite to distancing people from the source of the revolution. Is this true? It goes against the best of human logic. It goes against the logic that necessitated the formation of the Islamic system, and we believe that the concept is still a necessity in the world and that Islamic and divine governments will be established in many regions of the world in due course.

There are some specific features pertaining to the time when the revolution first appeared. These features may of course weaken over time and may even disappear. Well, let them disappear; that is not important. You yourself know that the excitement of seeing an old and dear friend after a long time disappears after a while. However, that does not mean that your true affection and feelings about that person also disappear. Values and principles cannot become weak over time. On the contrary, they become stronger, more noticeable, clearer, and more firmly fixed in people's minds.

There were a lot of persons who made a lot of noise in the early days of the revolution but could not march forward during events experienced in the middle of the revolution. They either stepped aside or were swept aside by the current of the revolution. That which remains is durable, does not age, and grows stronger and more brilliant by the day; it is the truth of the values of Islam and the revolution. So those who believe that we should really become less attached and certain about the values of the revolution, less careful about maintaining them and less sensitive about their influence in society as time goes by, should not think in this way. No, sir, this is not the way things are. On the contrary; when we are preoccupied with war, for instance, we are drawn quite naturally toward certain tasks. When we can afford the time to give to self-development and social development, then we have to adhere more to the values of the revolution and Islam. By today's definition, the establishment of divine guardianship [velayat-e elahi] over society should become increasingly clearer, more profound, and more durable, in the place where the sweet flavor of divine guardianship has been tasted. [passage omitted]

We must strive to attain the perfect Islamic system. That is our duty. So long as you move toward that no power in the world, neither America nor anyone else, would be able to overcome you.

[Crowd chants: "God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to America, death to Israel"]

[Khamene'i continues] They may deal blows, cause trouble, and play tricks. Of course, all that exists; one cannot expect kindness from the enemy, but they could not overcome. They could not gain control over you; they would not be able to prevent your movement towards perfection; they could not get the better of you. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [end recording]

Interior Minister Outlines Election Preparations

LD0906205293 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri says over 29 million Iranians are eligible to vote in the presidential elections. He also says rials 2,500 million has been earmarked in the new year (1372) budget for holding the sixth round of the elections on Friday [11 June]. The figure, he says, is likely to increase.

Speaking at a news conference attended by domestic and foreign journalists here today, Nuri added that all Iranians born before June 11, 1978 can participate in the voting.

The minister said 27,013 ballot boxes in Iran and 200 outside the country will be set up on the election day.

The Council of Guardians has confirmed the competency of four candidates in the sixth round of the presidential elections, including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Nuri said there were no prominent political figures among those rejected by the council.

He said the presidential decree will be conferred on the president-elect by the leader of the revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on August 3. After swearing-in ceremony at the majles, the president will introduce his cabinet.

Nuri also said foreign journalists were free to attend the polls in Tehran and other cities on the election day and report on the election procedures and vote-counting.

Grand Ayatollahs Urge People To Vote in Elections

NC1006083293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] On the eve of the sixth presidential elections, the Grand Ayatollahs Golpayegani and Araki have issued separate messages calling on the Iranian nation to actively and uniformly participate in the elections.

In his message, Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani has stated that participation in the elections is tantamount to a declaration of support, faith, and interest in Islamic traditions. The message also states: Participation in the sixth round of presidential elections will further encourage all Muslims throughout the world and will add to their stability, steadfastness, and hope as well as on their decisiveness and powers of decision. It will also further dismay the satans who are anticipating that the everlasting light of Islam will flicker and die out.

In his message, Grand Ayatollah Araki has said that the active participation of each and every member of the Muslim Iranian nation in the elections is a divine duty that will lead to the grandeur of Islam and of the Islamic Republic. In part of the message, Araki states: Since the preservation of Iran's Islamic system, the implementation of the luminous decrees of the Koran, and the defense of moral values all fully depend on committed and resistant administrators who are well acquainted with Islam, all members of the Iranian nation should participate in the elections and exert sufficient effort to elect a committed, pious, and suitable president. The implementation of this divine duty will manifest the society's maturity and its religious and moral dignity, and it will be a strong blow against liars, domestic and foreign enemies, and the bloodthirsty and world-devouring arrogance that is lying in wait hoping for the decline and dissolution of this divine system.

In their messages, Golpayegani and Araki express the hope that the president elected by the people will do his best to implement the luminous decrees of Islam.

Tavakkoli Address Highlights Foreign Policy

LD0806154893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1016 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Address by presidential candidate Ahmad Tavakkoli; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] As I promised before it is necessary to make a few points about foreign policy. The mechanism of our foreign policy must have four characteristics. The first characteristic is that it must have the ability to reflect the truths that occur in the world. If what happening in the world is not properly understood and reflected it will result in incorrect decisions.

The next characteristic is possessing strategy and long-term solutions to deal with any form of foreign policy: What we wish to do with the West in the long run; what we will do with Central Asian countries; how our long-term relations with the Middle East will be planned. They are long-term policies that should affect all tactical and strategic plans.

When strategy is clear we must have a workable and practical plan for every issue of foreign policy. The plans are prepared in accordance with conditions and should be implemented by and with the help of efficient people with sufficient competence. Therefore, possessing people who are capable of implementing those plans should be the fourth characteristic of the mechanism of our foreign policy.

The principles of our foreign policies are as the esteemed leader has stated a number of times. Just as the imam—may his soul be admitted to paradise—repeatedly stated,

we cannot be isolated from the world. According to the eminent imam, the world now resembles a city where different countries form parts of its quarters. These quarters cannot exist without any links with each other. The life of human society naturally depends on these different reciprocal relations. What is important is the principles on which these relations are based and not what type of relations they are. The principles at the basis of our relations with other countries are mutual respect and interests. We have relations on the basis of these principles with every country in the world save two or three. We have relations with all those who accept the Islamic revolution as a reality and are prepared, after this acceptance, to sit down with us at the negotiating table on the basis of mutual respect and interests. This is the policy which was articulated consistantly by the velayat-e faqih and was being pursued in the country.

Now, the three principles that merit attention and explain that same past policy are the principles of glory, wisdom, and expediency. Glory means that as a religious government and a nation with an illustrious history behind it, we are not prepared to yield to anyone's unjust domination within the international community. We are not prepared to accept the hegemonistic drives of the superpowers. We have equal rights. This stance should be felt in all our political relations on the international arena. When the Westerners explicity describe and defend their coercive and hegemonistic deeds, why should we be ashamed to explain and defend the lofty ideas of the prophets of human society? Why should we forget about defending people? Glory means believing in one's own self, one's religious and national self. Wisdom is a sign that whatever we do on the international arena is for the achievement of correct goals. And we do this in a judicious manner. If some people have only the goal in mind and not the method of how to achieve it, they are not acting wisely. If some people forget the goal and only concentrate on rationality [aql], then this will be tantamount to rationalism [aql-gera'i] which is condemned by us. We believe that to act sagaciously we should adopt measured and judicious moves to fulfill our goals and chose our moves in ways that suit the conditions of time and place. But times and places under different conditions require different kinds of considerations. Sometimes there is need for militancy [tond-ravi] and at other times there us need for compromise, deals, and negotiations. These are different methods and ways which we choose and deploy to serve our national interest. None of them are good or bad in themselves. What is important is that we should use them as levers to achieve our goals within a suitable period of time.

If it is understood in our foreign policy that we are a religious government wishing to present a new culture to mankind in a hostile world—that is, if it is understood that our enemies are those who seek monopolistic rule in the world—with such an understanding and belief political work attains a meaning. Political work means seeking the best methods to achieve goals in a hostile world, in a world in which the enemies are fighting us about God.

However, those who forget that fact and are frightened by the West's material might may put forward other solutions, solutions that are not honorable, wise and expedient.

If we wish to act wisely we should not witness trips whose aims are not clearly defined. We should not witness a trip that has one repeated aim, but it is not clear how close each one brings us to those aims. We should not witness attitudes that stem from weakness. We should not witness decisions that confront us with unexpected reactions. When, on a foreign political scene, we are confronted with an incident, the opposite of which we expected, we must accept that our information about the facts was wrong, that our analysis of what was happening was incorrect. Therefore, we made the wrong decision.

If there are some people who believe that we cannot maintain our country unless we yield to others, I think they have neither strong religious essence, nor do they have good political awareness, nor sufficient national pride. Why? Because, if a person has fundamental beliefs and adheres to religious precepts he would know that we cannot make peace with those who are hostile to us and wish to fight us until we are dead.

Those who are familiar with the lofty as well as freedom and independence seeking strategy of the late imam of the ummah can not forget that the honor achieved through the resistance of this nation and the leadership of that great man must not be erased with such ideas. They lack sufficient political awareness. There are many countries which have accepted defeat at the hands of the superpowers, and may have had temporary and relative economic growth but no humane political and social life. There are many examples. We can point to America's political satellites in Southeast Asia. [passage omitted]

These countries will either have to be at the service and under the yoke of slavery for America and behave as an outgrowth of its economy or their development will end. Why? Because it was accepted on the premise of slavery. If there is no all-encompassing self-confidence in religious and national abilities, the independence of the country will not continue. Thank God that we live in a country most independent in the world. Our strength lies not in guns, but in the will of the nations. It is our influence on the will of nations that is the concern of the enemy. The upkeep of this influence and the expansion of the fighting front for the truth-seekers against those who wish to bring all the people of the world under their own yoke depends on us maintaining our honor. We must seek our ways and means within such a context.

It is for this reason that one of the most fundamental conditions which I, as a presidential candidate, consider important for Iran is belief in the all-embracing proficiency of Islam. If this matter is not given importance and, God forbid, if certain persons take charge of key positions and then fix their eyes on Western prescriptions, then eventually we will arrive at a point where we would receive many blows. An example, with reference

to this very point, is sole reliance on economic growth without adequate attention paid to social justice is a consequence of these same ways of confronting the problem. [passage omitted]

In view of the numerous questions I have received, the final point of my speech is to declare my own views about women in society and about the young.

Women and men do not differ as human beings. The Koran stipulates that the humanism of humankind means that men and women should perform their divine and human duties well. Value lies in the way a duty is carried out; it has nothing to do with the nature of the duty itself. The duties of individuals differ and suit the blessings bestowed on each of them. [passage omitted]

God has given men and women different as well as common features and in this way there are some duties they share in common and others that are specific to each of them. Thus, differences in terms of duties does not create any problems from the standpoint of values. The distinction in values lies in the different ways men and women perform their duties. [passage omitted]

Thus, if we believe that men have the right of divorce—and this right can be removed from the man and given to the woman depending on the marriage contract—this is no advantage to the man. In the same way it is no advantage to women to be considered as having the right to sit at home as a lady of leisure and to order their husbands around. Society's standing does not depend solely on legal instructions; ethics have to be included in legal instructions if society's stature and health are to be maintained. It is ethics that creates a balance just as it does in the economic field. [passage omitted]

Therefore, we have to work toward providing conditions for women to perform in accordance with their creative abilities just like men do. [passage omitted]

Just as housewives should be able to use their spare time to find a role for themselves in national production, we should also try and make sure that women who work outside the home will not be prevented from fulfilling their family duties by being under too much pressure. Is there anything more important than the making of a human being, after all? [passage omitted]

Ground Satellite Stations Opened in Mazandaran

LD0906192093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Two ground satellite stations were commissioned today in the Dodangeh region of Sari, allowing 12,000 inhabitants of nine villages in the region to receive the programs of the First Channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

The director general of the Voice and Vision center in Mazandaran Province gave a speech, in which he said: At the moment, by using two powerful television stations and 32 relay and ground satellite stations, 98 percent of the regions of Mazandaran Province can receive the programs of the First Channel, and 84 percent can receive the programs of the Second Channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the current year, eight other ground satellite stations will also be constructed in different parts of Mazandaran Province.

Election to ILO Board of Management Welcomed

LD0906204893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] For the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been elected as a main member of the International Labor Organization [ILO] board of management.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Geneva, the decision was taken during the 80th annual session of the ILO conference held in Geneva. Iran has been elected as a member of the board of management of the organization for three years.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Kamali, who leads the Iranian delegation at the ILO session in Geneva, in an interview with the Central News Unit called the election of Iran as a board of management member of the ILO—which took place despite the reluctance of some Western states—as an outstanding achievement. He stressed: Iran's presence in its new position can result in the expansion of Iran's activity in the ILO and effectively assist in securing social welfare and the resolution of labor issues in Iran and the region.

Ministry Reiterates Stance on Gulf Islands Issue

LD0906164493 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today again rejected any territorial claims on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and stressed that negotiations was the only realistic approach to the issue.

Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi, commenting on the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the six-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Tuesday [8 June], recalled the recent visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to the region, including the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. He said during the visit last month, the two countries in a press statement had called for settlement of their differences through holding of negotiations.

"In order to maintain the suitable ground created (between Iran and the UAE), it is necessary for other countries and organizations to refrain from taking positions outside the context of the joint Iran-UAE statement, which might weaken it," Sarmadi said.

'More Logical' Tone of GCC Communique Welcomed

LD0906204793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] capital city Abu Dhabi, the foreign ministers of six member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, concluded their 47th round session in Abu Dhabi.

On Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th of June, detailed talks were held among the member states of this Council on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf, as well as issues related to joint cooperation among the Arab states.

In this session whose round chairman was the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, relations with Iraq as well as practical means for the fulfillment of Damascus Statement (the so-called six-plus-two formula, or PGCC members plus Syria and Egypt) and the future relations between the PGCC member states and the Islamic Republic of Iran following Mr. Velayati's visit to that region were discussed.

Based on this report, at the conclusion of the session a statement was released by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. In this statement the agreements reached between Iran and the UAE concerning preparedness for further direct talks between the two countries to settle the issues of difference was welcomed.

In view of the Persian Gulf political issues analysts, this statement sounds much more logical compared to the Council's former statements in relation with Iran. This is indicative of the serious intention of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states for having friendly and brotherly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With the visit of Dr. Velayati to six member states of the PGCC three weeks ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran displayed its decisive intention to establish relations with these states based on noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual respect for each other's national sovereignty rights.

Certainly the removal of existing differences within the framework of regional cooperation will reach immediate and more firm results. Since some countries which are faced with local problems try to produce doubts and pessimism among the regional states, and hence with their ill intentions the necessity of mutual talks for bringing the regional states' views closer becomes more evident.

One key point, however, is that the past performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the critical Persian Gulf war period and the occupation of Kuwait proves the fact that Tehran's view on its relations with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region has not been and still is not a prejudicial and opportunistic view based on material interest. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always exhibited its good intentions for the establishment of relations based on principles and Islamic and brotherly spirit, and no doubt as long such a spirit exists mutually winning full understanding concerning the existing differences would be feasible.

At the present condition where there has emerged new prospect for mutual cooperation the performance of regional states guarantees continuation and expansion of such cooperation. Of course, one should not forget that the conspiracies by the well-known alien elements are still under way and they still try to produce tension in the region and take advantage of it.

It can be said as a whole that the 47th session of the PGCC foreign ministers in Abu Dhabi has initiated a positive mood for the improvement of relations between the member states and Tehran, and it is expected that this mood will win positive results in the near future.

Pakistan

Interim Court Order Restores Punjab Assembly

BK0906141893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1408 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] In an interim order issued a short while ago in Lahore, the high court said that it considers appropriate to suspend operation of the governor's order of dissolution of the Assembly with the result that the cabinet headed by Mian Manzar Ahmad Wattoo and the provincial assembly of the Punjab shall be entitled to function as immediately before the order was passed on May 29, 1993. The court directed that the resolution of no-confidence, if passed against the chief minister, shall not be given effect in any manner whatsoever till the final decision of (?operation) nor Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo would in the meantime tender any fresh advice to dissolve the provincial assembly of Punjab, nor a fresh notice of resolution of no-confidence shall be entertained against him. The interim order was unanimously passed. Details are still coming in.

Sharif 'Sincere' About Involving Opposition

BK0906104193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that the government is sincere about initiating dialogue with the opposition and it wants to create an atmosphere in the country which is free from political confrontation. He said this while presiding over a meeting in Islamabad yesterday of the reconciliatory committees set up to hold talks with the opposition both within and outside the parliament. The prime minister directed the participants of the meeting to hold sincere talks with the opposition, keeping themselves above any personal interest and keeping in view the greater national interests. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that

the government would like to involve the opposition in all major national issues. We do not like to harm the national interests by confronting the opposition, he added.

The prime minister said that the people want to see an end to the politics of animosity, prejudice, and personal interest. It was decided at the meeting that the talks will be held with total honesty and seriousness. The meeting also formulated the strategy for the current session of the National Assembly. Participants in the meeting appreciated the effort to initiate a reconciliatory dialogue with the opposition and assured the prime minister that they will wholeheartedly strive to achieve positive results from these talks. They exchanged views on various proposals for the proposed talks.

The two-member reconciliatory committee comprising Federal Minister Chaudhary Amir Hussain and Minister of State Rai Ahmad Nawaz held talks with leaders of Anjuman-i-Sipah-i-Sahaba; Azim Tariq, member of the National Assembly; and Maulana Ziaur Rahman Farooqi yesterday. The two sides exchanged views on the political situation and agreed to promote democracy and democratic institutions.

Sharif on Government Objectives, Dialogue

BK1006100593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that his government's major objective is to promote democracy and economic progress. He has done his best to maintain democracy and democratic traditions during the past two and a half years and no one can charge him with adopting any undemocratic and unconstitutional methods. The prime minister made these observations while talking to the editors of the national newspapers and magazines at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad last night.

Referring to his efforts to settle national issues amicably, Nawaz Sharif said that during the Supreme Court's hearing of the petition against the dissolution of the National Assembly, he had given assurances that he would perform his duties according to the constitutional provisions and would work with the president within the framework of the Constitution. Referring to the events prior to the dissolution of the National Assembly, he said he had tried his best to settle the issues amicably. He had held consultations with his colleagues and the National Assembly members and then addressed the nation on 17 April to inform the people of the situation. In spite of that, he regretted that the National Assembly had been dissolved in an illegal and unconstitutional manner and his government dismissed. Even after the restoration of the National Assembly and his government, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province Assemblies were dissolved and an uncertain situation was created in Sindh and Balochistan. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the restoration of the Punjab provincial assembly by the Lahore High Court.

About his efforts for reconciliation with the opposition, Nawaz Sharif said he has directed the reconciliation committee to begin its work without any delay and hold serious negotiations with the opposition in the light of the speech he had made in the National Assembly. The prime minister said he wants to eliminate confrontation from national politics for good and that is why he has made a sincere offer of a dialogue with the opposition.

When asked about the possibility of snap elections, the prime minister said the time has now come when the popularly elected government should be given the opportunity to complete its mandate and it is the duty of all of us to respect this mandate. Nawaz Sharif said he is devoting his attention to the development of infrastructural facilities, such as the construction of a motorway and the establishment of a new port in Gwadar, and the maintenance of development activities in different spheres of national life.

Earlier, prayers were offered for the salvation of the souls of the Pakistani soldiers who had sacrificed their lives while serving in Somalia in order to further the cause of peace.

Addressing a reception at Ghurbun, the prime minister said the opposition has to play an important role in democracy and we are willing to move forward together with the opposition parties. He said we do not harbor any ill will against anyone nor do we believe in the politics of violence. The politics of conspiracies should now come to an end, because the national honor is most dear to us. The people have now become politically alive and none can deviate the nation from the path of democracy. We want to unite the nation from Karachi to Khyber so that Pakistan can command a respectable position in the community of nations, the prime minister added.

New Intelligence Bureau Chief Appointed

BK0906125993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 8—Air Commodore Ghouri, Joint Director Intelligence Bureau [IB], has been appointed to the rank of Director Intelligence Bureau in place of Nazir Malik.

The notification regarding the new IB chief was issued on Tuesday [8 June].

A serving Air Force Officer, Air Commodore Ghouri had served in the ISI [Interservices Intelligence] from where he was inducted into the IB, courtesy Brig (Retd) Imtiaz, the former IB Chief.

Though the slot of the IB Chief is traditionally reserved for the officers of the police cadre, the Nawaz Sharif government changed this policy by inducting a retired officer of the army as its IB Chief.

After becoming the IB Chief, Brig (Retd) Imtiaz phased out the police from the intelligence by bringing in ISI

men in the key posts in the outfit. This was resented by the officers of the police cadre with long experience in the field of intelligence gathering. The caretaker government had tried to put the things in the right track when it appointed a police officer to the top IB sot.

JI Announces Agenda for Talks With Government

BK0906134793 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jun 93 p 6

["Bureau Report"]

[Text] Islamabad, June 8—Jamaat-i-Islami on Tuesday [8 June] announced a nine-point agenda for talks with the Government which includes withdrawal of Federal Government's appeal against Federal Shariat Court decision declaring interest as un-Islamic.

The nine-point agenda was announced by Jamaat's Parliamentary Party leader Liaquat Baluch at a Press conference on Tuesday.

Welcoming Government's offer for talks, Liaquat Baluch informed reporters the parliamentary group of his party considered the offer was the responsibility of all the political parties and forces to bring the country out of the present crisis.

Saying the only solution was to allow the people to elect new leadership, Liaquat Baluch said the present crisis was a creation of uncoastitutional steps taken by the President and hurriedly taken decisions by the Prime Minister.

He said the role of Pakistan People's Party in these crises had disappointed the nation adding that the dissolution of two provincial assemblies had further complicated the situation.

Liaquat Baluch said the parliamentary group of his party after thoroughly considering the situation formulated a nine-point agenda for holding talks with the Government. He said the agenda was being sent to the Government so that they should come well- prepared to discuss the issues listed in the agenda.

The nine points on the agenda are:

1. A constitutional amendment bill should be introduced in the National Assembly to declare complete supremacy of Quaran and Sunnan in the country.

2. The Government should come out with concrete proposals how to balance the powers between the President and the Prime Minister after the withdrawal of 8th constitutional amendment. However, it made it clear that Jamaat will not hold talks on those clauses of the 8th amendment which provide cover to Islamic laws. Similar, it said, the constitutional status of northern areas should be defined, immediate separation of executive from the judiciary and to use the national language in offices.

3. The Government should openly declare that it would not accept US hegemony nor would take dictation from America while formulating its policies.

4. It should also declare that the formula of accepting Indian hegemony in the region would not be accepted at any cost. A bold policy would be adopted on Kashmir issue, people would be prepared for Jihad and nuclear programme would not be rolled back.

5. The Government [words indistinct] draw its appeal against the decision of the Federal Shariat Court declering interest as un- Islamic. Steps would be taken to control inflation and unemployment and no interest would be charged from those given loans for purchasing yellow cabs.

6. Workers rights should be restored in all government, semi-government, autonomous organisations, industrial units and educational institutions.

7. Political victimisation of opposition workers and leaders would be stopped forthwith besides ending the harassment of government employees.

8. The Federal Government should stop interference in the provincial autonomy and to stop discriminatory treatment with the opposition MNAs [members of National Assembly] in the allocation of development funds.

9. For holding free and fair elections in the country, 1977 agreement between the government and the opposition should be implemented.

The Election Commission should be given constitutional powers, [words indistinct] areas to ensure [?that a] common man could participate in the election.

Liaquat Baluch said the agenda was chalked out so that a meaningful dialogue could be held with the other side and they should come prepared.

Liaqar Baluch said further that supremacy of India would not be accepted by his party and demanded that a bold policy be adopted regarding the Kashmir issue.

He demanded of the Government to take steps to help the Bosniau Muslims and to prepare the Pakistani nation for Jihad in view of lurking international threats.

The agenda also demanded that the US pressure should not be accepted in political as well in economic field. The Government, he said, should declare that it would not accept dictation from the United States.

Interest-free economy be introduced, he said and asked the Government to withdraw appeal from the court against the verdict of the Federal Shariat Court regarding interest-free economy.

Recovery of Interest in self-employment schemes, including yellow taxi scheme, should be stopped immediately, he said.

Rights of students and labour community in industrial units, Government and non-Government departments and educational institutions be restored, he said and demanded that vindictive policies against political parties and its leaders be stopped.

Liaqat Baluch also called for implementation of the formula reached in 1977 between the Government and the Opposition regarding holding of impartial and free elections in the country.

He said the meeting of the Parliamentary Party had observed with regrets that the political crisis had deepend in the country and the nation was disappointed over hasty and unorganised steps by the Prime Minister and political somersaults by the Pakistan People's Party.

In view of this situation, Liaqat [words indistinct] choose a new leadership capable of resisting external pressure and steering the country out of the present political crisis.

He said great responsibilities lay on the shoulders of political lenders and elected representatives in tackling the situation.

He observed that it was a welcome sign to open talks with the Opposition but before any meaningful dialogue national priorities should be fixed to save the nation from further disappointment.

PPP Committee To Hold Talks With Government

BK0906155693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Central Executive Committee has expressed readiness to hold talks with the government in the greater interests of the country. Briefing newsmen on the committee's decision taken yesterday, Party Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad said his party's position is that the talks should be based on principles so the legal status of institutions is restored. The committee said the present political crisis can be solved only by conducting free elections. The PPP executive committee demanded fiscal discipline and a substantial reduction in deficit financing in the forthcoming budget.

Editorial Praises Nonintervention of Armed Forces

BK0906133793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 June 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Commanders' Meeting"]

[Text] If the proceedings of the Corps Commanders meeting the other day have been correctly reported, there is much there to give one cause for satisfaction. The top brass of the army is said to have undertaken a thorough and comprehensive review of the country's internal and external situation. The cause for satisfaction springs from the professionalism of the review, which has abjured any hint of interference by the armed forces in the politics of the country. This neutrality, which has been reiterated many times by the COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Waheed himself is a welcome sign of growing maturity and a realisation by the armed forces of their proper sphere of operation. Given the sorry history of military intervention to abort the political process in the country, their resolve of leaving it to the civilian political leaderships to sort out political problems will be seen as a good sign by all democratic minded people. The Corps Commanders meeting expressed some appreciation of the fact that the political developments since March were purely within the ambit of the Constitution and no party had stepped beyond the bounds of the highest law of the land. Other issues on which the meeting is said to have focused include the growing Indo-Zionist link, the Sindh situation, Somalia, the potential law and order aspects of Moharram and Kashmir.

So long as the political forces do not again fail to fulfil their responsibilities, chief amongst which is the formulation of mutually acceptable rules of the game to ensure the consolidation of democracy, a task that can only be accomplished by dialogue, there appears to be no ostensible reason for the armed forces to revert to their much to be regretted past history of intervention, which neither the internal nor the international opinion would approve of today. Freed of worrying about the internal political situation if the politicians rise to the demands that history has placed on them at this juncture, the armed forces would be better able to concentrate on their legitimate tasks and problems. The growing Indo-Zionist collusion, India's continuing genocidal provocations in Kashmir and the further build-up of their forces in that unhappy Vale of tears all point to the very real danger knocking at the door. An uncluttered concentration on combating such threats to national defence and security would go some way towards helping the army in the fulfilment of its sacred duty. Perhaps the time has also come to reconstruct the law and order regime in Sindh under civilian auspices in order further to free the army's hands for defence of the country's borders.

Peacekeepers' Deaths Mourned, Mission To Continue

BK0906152893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The namaz-i-janaza [funeral prayers] for 23 army personnel who embraced shahadat [martyrdom] in Mogadishu on Saturday was offered in Rawalpindi this morning. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, attended the namaz-i-janaza. The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah; chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee, General Shamim Alam Khan; the chief of army staff, Gen. Abdul Waheed; the chief of naval staff, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan; Chief of Air Staff Air Chief

Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan; and other high-ranking civil and military officials were also present on the occasion.

Prayers were offered for the departed souls. The valiant soldiers serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia were accorded full military and state honors. After the namaz-i-janaza, the bodies of the shuhda [martyrs] were dispatched to their respective hometowns and villages all across the country. The bodies brought home last night by a special Pakistan Air Force [PAF] plane were received with full military honors. At the PAF base, Chaklala senior military officials, representatives of the United Nations, and defense attaches of the United States and Italy were present.

Thirty-eight seriously wounded army personnel also flew home last night. They are among those who were injured by the Somalian gunmen on Saturday last. From the airfield, they were taken straight to Combined Military Hospital under the care of army medical teams which were at hand to attend them. Until their departure for Pakistan, they received treatment at four hospitals set up by Pakistan, United States, Swedish, and Italian army contingents in Mogadishu.

The chief of the army staff, Gen. Abdul Waheed, appreciating the morale and solidarity spirit of Pakistani peacekeepers in Somalia, has said that the sacrifices rendered by our soldiers to restore peace in war-ravaged Somalia will be written in golden words in the annals of world history. He was talking to the injured Pakistani soldiers in different wards of the hospital. He inquired about their health, and expressions on the faces of the wounded soldiers as they met their chief fully reflected their high morale. This was further reinforced by their request to be sent back to Somalia as soon as possible to rejoin their units and continue their duty. Gen. Abdul Waheed said that the entire world is proud of the sacrifices rendered by the valiant Pakistani soldiers in Somalia for the cause of peace.

The United Nations is considering Pakistan's demand to provide heavy equipment to its troops engaged in peacekeeping operations in Somalia. A Foreign Office spokesman said during a briefing in Islamabad today that Pakistan's demand has already been endorsed by the Security Council and the operational (?details) are being worked out. The spokesman said the UN will pay compensation to the heirs of the martyred Pakistani soldiers and those injured in the tragic incident in Mogadishu. He said Pakistan's forces will stay in Somalia till complete normalcy returns to that country.

Leading Party Urges Pullout

BK0906145693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Islamabad, June 9 (AFP)—Pakistan's influential fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party Wednesday [9 June] called on Pakistanis to protest against the killing of Pakistani UN peacekeepers in Somalia. In a statement, JI chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed condemned the "barbaric" attack in Somalian capital Mogadishu on Saturday, which left 23 soldiers dead and 54 wounded. Ahmed, calling the protest for Friday, also demanded that some 5,000 Pakistani troops serving with the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) be withdrawn, along with others serving in Cambodia under the UN flag. The JI chief said that Pakistan could not afford to keep its troops in the two countries when Moslems in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Indian-controlled Kashmir were being "slaughtered," and unstable conditions prevailed in neighbouring Afghanistan. "We have no national interests to protect in the two countries and our soldiers are only protecting the interests of a superpower," he said, referring to the United States. Earlier, Ahmed had accused the United States of bringing about the multinational troop buildup in Somalia under the aegis of the United Nations in order to promote its objectives and "encircle" the Islamic government in Sudan. Ahmed's call to protest coincided with the arrival in nearby Rawalpindi of the bodies of the killed Pakistani soldiers and their wounded colleagues from Mogadishu. Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his arch rival President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, attended mass prayers at a Rawalpindi air base for the slain soldiers. Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said the United Nations was considering its demand to provide heavy military hardware, including armoured carriers and helicopters, to its troops engaged in peace operations in Somalia. The spokesman said the request, already endorsed by the Security Council, was made to allow the troops patrolling the war-torn country to operate effectively. The lack of proper equipment has been sharply criticised by some politicians, who cited it as a reason for the massacre over the weekend of the Pakistani members of the UN peacekeeping force at the hands of the private militia of rebel leader Mohamed Farah Aideed. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pakistani peacekeeping forces would remain in Somalia until the country returns to normal and ruled out the possibility of a troop withdrawal. He added that the situation was "quite tense," but said confidence building measures were in progress to restore peace. Meanwhile, Pakistan's main opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by former premier Benazir Bhutto, commended the UN Security Council resolution for an investigation and action against the perpetrators of the Mogadishu killings. "The UN should immediately arrest those responsible," the PPP's Central Executive Committee said in a resolution.

Indian Missile Deployment Near Border Viewed

BK0906113393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jun 93 p 12

[By Aroosa Alam: "No Cut in Defence Spending: Ghaus"]

[Text] Islamabad, June 8—Defence Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said the deployment of Prithvi

missiles by India along Pakistan borders was aimed at bringing to limelight the issue of Chinese M-II missiles.

Speaking on a call attention notice by Haji Javed Yasin Khan Wattoo and Gul Hamid Khan Rokri regarding the installation of dangerous missiles by India which caused grave concern among the people, the minister said the Prithvi missile which has a range of 200-300 km, is still in the testing stage. He said India may have deployed prototype missiles.

He said the situation is being closely watched by the government as the government is conscious of war preparations by the neighboring country. He assured the house that our armed forces can meet any challenge from any quarter. He said the range of these missiles is also being kept in view.

He categorically stated the defence of the country was on top priority and there would be no cut in the defence expenditure.

The reference by Syed Ghaus Ali Shah to M-II missiles built by China meant that India wanted to highlight the Chinese missiles issue because it had been claiming for the past several months that China has supplied the M-II missiles to Pakistan. This has been denied several times by both Pakistan and China.

Even the United States raised the issue of M-II missiles with China during their bilateral talks and at the diplomatic level because allegations were made that these missiles were also being sold to some middle eastern countries and may be a source of concern for the United States and Israel.

So analysts are giving special significance to the deployment of Indian missiles along Pakistan borders. India wanted to see a reaction from Pakistan, which may deploy its own missiles to counter the threat.

Over 1.5 Million Refugees Return to Afghanistan

BK1006084493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that over 1.5 million Afghan refugees have returned to their country since July 1990, while 1.7 million registered refugees are still in Pakistan. The minister for state and frontier region, Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir, told the house that there are still about 500,000 unregistered Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The minister for railways, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour, said the railways plan to privatize the Lahore-Shorkot, Lahore-Samasata, Hyderabad-Badin, and Hyderabad-Mirpur Khas sections.

The minister for information and broadcasting, Mian Abdul Sattar Lalika, informed the house that PTV [Pakistan Television] and Radio Pakistan are devoting a sizable time to the regional programs.

The minister in charge of the cabinet division, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, said Pakistan's Badar-2 satellite is expected to be ready for launch next year.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits 9 Jun

Meets With Sharif

BK0906114293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Iran, Dr. 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. He told the prime minister that he has been instructed by the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to personally convey feelings and felicitations to him on the restoration of the National Assembly and his elected government. He said the Iranian president was looking forward to a meeting with the prime minister on the occasion of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit to be held in Ankara early next month.

The prime minister thanked the Iranian president for his sentiments of friendship toward Pakistan and warmly reciprocated his feelings. He expressed his confidence that the increasing cooperation between the two countries would not only expand to their mutual benefit, but would also be an important factor in the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Tehran Reports Meeting

LD0906131093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, delivered a message from our country's president to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif this morning. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] At the meeting Borujerdi, who arrived in Islamabad this morning at the head of a diplomatic delegation, submitted a report to the Pakistani prime minister on the latest regional developments, particularly Iran's ties with Arab Persian Gulf littoral states, the tripartite session of Iran, Syria, and Turkey in Tehran, and the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan. He added: Permanent stability and the success of the friend and brother country of Pakistan is the constant wish of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran will continue the expansion of mutual ties as a fixed policy.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Mohammad Siddique Khanjoo, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, and our country's ambassador in Islamabad, while expressing his pleasure over receiving Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message, Nawaz Sharif expressed his pleasure and gratitude about the special attention paid by our country's president to Pakistan. He said that the Government of Pakistan would do its best to achieve political stability and economic growth in that country.

Referring to the report submitted about the latest developments in the region, the Pakistani prime mininter said: Pakistan is happy about the improvement and expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab Persian Gulf states and believes that this move is necessary for achieving stability and calm in this sensitive region.

At the meeting the officials of the two countries also discussed the next session of the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in the near future.

More on Meeting

LD0906165193 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Islamabad, June 9, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and the Pacific Ala'ddin Borujerdi conveyed President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's verbal message to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here Wednesday.

Borujerdi said at the meeting that Iran was interested in Pakistan's security and will continue expanding bilateral ties with that country.

He briefed Sharif on the recent developments in the region especially Iran's relations with the littoral states in the Persian Gulf and the Tehran tripartite meeting between foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey and Iran, developments in Bosnia and the situation in Afghanistan.

Borujerdi expressed hope that the upcoming summit of the Economic Cooperation Organizaton (ECO) in Istanbul would take practical steps for acceleration of cooperation between the member states.

Sharif thanked Borujerdi for President Rafsanjani's message and assured that his government would do its utmost to restore political stability and economic growth to the country.

He hoped that on the sideline of the upcoming ECO summit, he would hold talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on regional and bilateral issues.

Iranian Embassy Denies Role in Assassination

LD0806132393 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Islamabad, June 8, IRNA—The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Tuesday [8 June] strongly rejected allegations of a Pakistani newspaper on involvement of Iran in the Sunday [6 June] assassination of a member of the monafeqin terrorist grouplet in Karachi.

Categorically denying the baseless rumor of the Peshawar-based English daily "FRONTIER POST", the Iranian Embassy stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is against any act of terrorism.

Following the assassination of Mohammad Hassan Arbab by two unidentified gunmen, the English daily quoting news sources wrote that the head of the terrorist group has requested President Gholam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan to close down Iranian representative offices in that country.

"FRONTIER POST" also wrote that the head of the monafeqin grouplet has accused the Iranian Embassy of planning the assassination in collaboration with the Iranian consulate in Karachi.

ICO Meeting Called on Bosnia, Kashmir Human Rights

BK0906155893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan has convened a special ministerial-level meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Vienna to discuss the human rights situation in Bosnia and occupied Kashmir. A Foreign Office spokesman said the meeting is likely to be held tomorrow. Pakistan would propose that a special declaration be issued over the tragic situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina. He said Pakistan would also voice its deep concerns over the situation in Held Kashmir where a campaign of repression has been launched by the Indian forces against the struggling Kashmiris for their rights.

Editorial Welcomes U.S. Ambassador's Remarks

BK0806141393 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 6 Jun 93 p 8

[Editorial: "A Suggestion To Improve Pakistan-India Relations"]

[Text] John Monjo, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, has said that improvement of relations between Pakistan and India is necessary for stability in the region and the two countries should settle their disputes in a peaceful manner. He expressed these views when he met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during which Pakistan-U.S. relations were also reviewed. John Monjo said that his country wants to improve relations with Pakistan as before. The United States supports the prime minister's economic policies and feels they will augur well for Pakistan's economic progress. Observers have described the changed tone of the U.S. ambassador as a resurgence of an element of cordiality in Pakistan-U.S. relations. The United States had been accusing Pakistan of supporting terrorism, but Pakistan emphatically rejected this assertion. Pakistan strongly opposes terrorism. It is not providing any material assistance to the freedom fighters of occupied Kashmir, nor is it aiding the Sikh separatists in East Punjab. It is wholeheartedly supporting the Kashmiri freedom fighters for granting them their right to self-determination and will continue to do so. The U.S. ambassador has assured that his country is not willing to include Pakistan on the list of terrorist states. The U.S. ambassador's remarks are encouraging.

suggesting that the United States is seriously considering ending its indifference toward Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Rejects Probe Into 'Vigilante' Unit

BK0906151793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Colombo, June 9 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Wednesday [9 June] rejected opposition demands for a probe into a dreaded vigilante group run by slain President Ranasinghe Premadasa but disbanded by the new administration.

Chief government whip Wimal Wickramasinghe told parliament that since the special unit's task had been to "wipe out corruption" there was no need to set up either a presidential or parliamentary committee to investigate it.

One of President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge's first acts after taking office on May 7 was to disband the dreaded unit dubbed by Sri Lanka's "mafia" by local media.

Wickramasinghe said the unit, set up under the Ministry of Policy Planning to probe allegations of corruption and malpractice by public servants, was no longer necessary.

"The unit was disbanded as it was thought it would be more appropriate for ministries, departments and corporations themselves to investigate directly into any such allegations," Wickramasinghe said.

He was responding to opposition legislator Nimal Siripala de Silva's call for the formation of a presidential commission to investigate the work of the "illegal" organisation.

The unit was formed by Premadasa to hound government opponents, public servants, journalists and even some ruling party members he disliked, police sources said.

Following Wijetunga's decision, newspapers here carried accounts of harassment by the unnamed agency headed by retired deputy inspector general of police, A. C. Lawrence.

MP Protests Mass Arrests of Tamils in Colombo

BK0806120793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Colombo, June 8 (AFP)—A Tamil legislator Tuesday [8 June] demanded an immediate halt to mass arrests of Tamil men and women in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo following the slaying of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Suresh Premachandra, an MP from the opposition Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), told parliament that hundreds of Tamils were being arrested daily and detained at police stations and a remand prison here.

Security forces, armed with sweeping emergency powers to arrest and detain suspects, have been rounding up members of the minority Tamil community following the May 1 slaying of Premadasa blamed on a suspected Tamil bomber.

The authorities have warned that the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had infiltrated the capital to carry out more attacks.

"I wish to know whether the government would cease immediately these arbitrary arrests and resort to more effective counter measures of curbing the LTTE menace rather than victimising the Tamil people for the conduct of the LTTE," Premachandra told parliament.

His EPRLF, which is also opposed to the LTTE, advocated tougher action against the Tiger guerrillas but cautioned the government against harassing Tamil civilians fleeing the Tiger strongholds of the island's northeast.

"No one can dispute the fact that the LTTE terrorism and fascism needs to be wiped out from the face of this earth. However, what we are witnessing today is the slaughter of the lamb—not the Tiger.

"To those arrested, particularly to innocent young women, their confinement in the police stations and in the Welikada prison is a humiliating and terrorising experience," Premachandra said.

He said the Tamils were being picked up by police while travelling to work, from their lodgings or even from their homes.

Police have said that they detained 18 Tamils and five Sinhalese in connection with the suicide bombing of Premadasa believed to have been carried out with help from the president's domestic staff.

Two domestic servants of Premadasa, who was a member of the majority Sinhalese community, are among the five Sinhalese detained.

Technical Export Sector Registers Rapid Growth

BK0906140893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The technical sector of Sri Lanka export trade has shown rapid development in the recent past. In 1990, 52.5 percent of the total export was from the technical sector. In 1992, this percentage rose up to 68.9. The component of the agricultural sector was 36.3 percent in 1990. However, the contribution of this sector was reduced to 24 percent first year [as heard]. The export from the technical sector in 1990 brought in 41.5 billion rupees in foreign exchange. The foreign exchange earned in 1992 by this sector was 75.7 billion rupees.